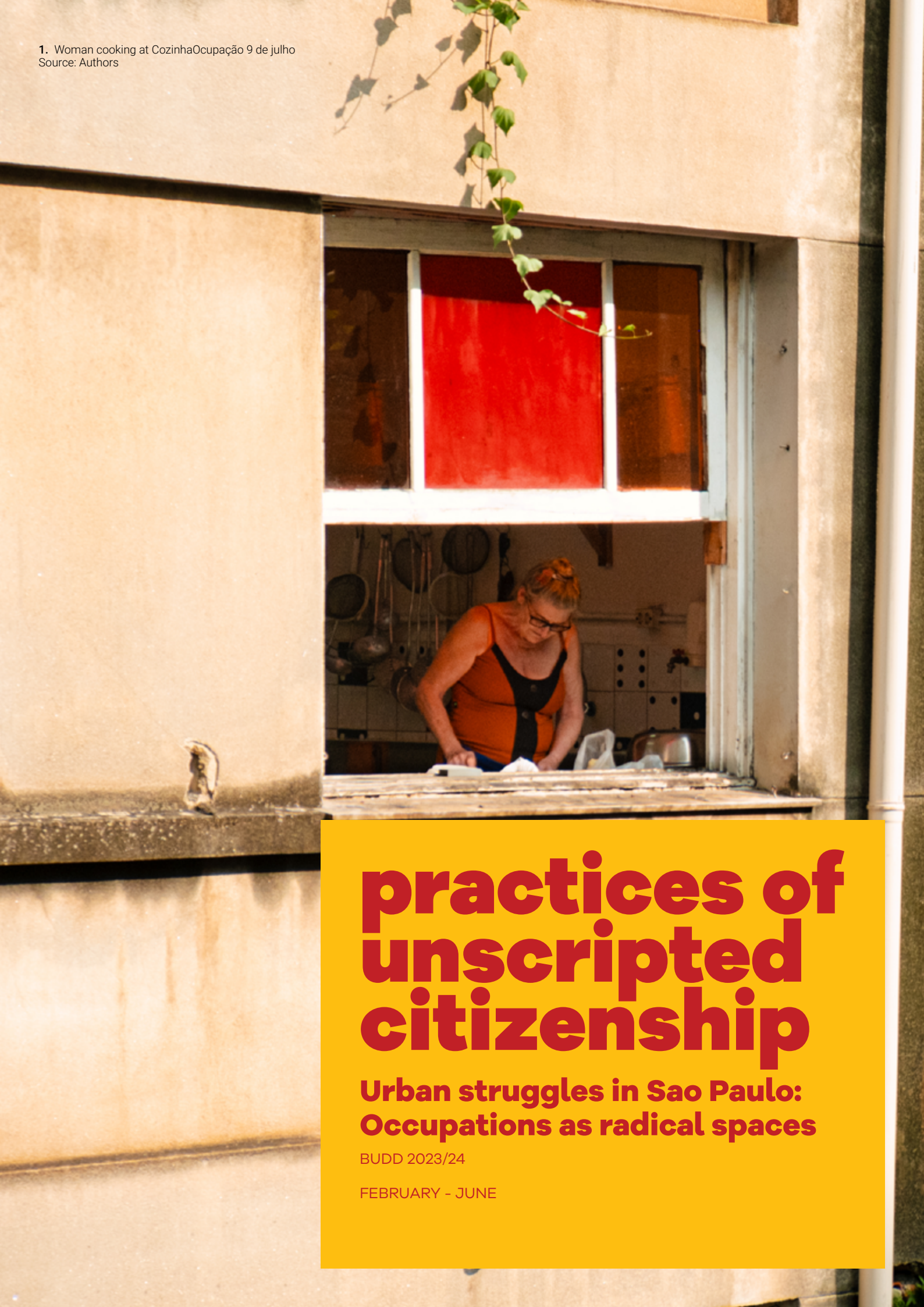

1. Woman cooking at CozinhaOcupação 9 de julho
Source: Authors

practices of unscripted citizenship

Urban struggles in Sao Paulo: Occupations as radical spaces

BUDD 2023/24

FEBRUARY - JUNE

2. The abandoned Prestes Maia textile factory, occupied by a 'sem teto' social movement, stands in downtown São Paulo
Source: BUDD Cohort 2023/24

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preface

acronyms

BUDD	Building and Urban Design in Development
CECASUL	Centro de Cidadania e Ação Social Sul
DPU	Development Planning Unit
FESPSP	Fundação Escola de Sociologia e Política de São Paulo
FLM	Frente de Luta por Moradia
FOMMAESP	Forum de Moradia e Meio Ambiente do Estado de São Paulo
GIS	Geographic Information System
MMLJ	Movimento de Moradia da Luta por Justiça
MST	Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Teto
MSTC	Movimento do Sem-Teto do Centro
MSTLV	Movimento Sem Teto Lutar e Viver
MSTRU	Movimento Sem Teto pelo Reforma Urbanaz
TNG	Movimento de Moradia Terra Nossa Gente

3. São Paulo city is seen from the abandoned Prestes Maia textile factory
Source: Nacho Doce, 2018

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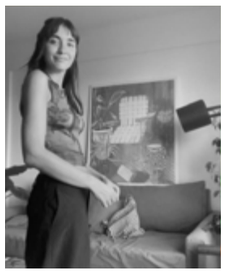
We want to thank all the people who made our presence in São Paulo possible and enjoyable at its maximum. Thanks to Glenda for receiving us at the airport, the organisation of times and the translations you have done for us to understand. Rafael and Catarina, thank you for the time you gave us to explain MSTC and their 'luta' to the dwellers and workers in Nove de Julho, who shared their knowledge and appreciated time with us.

To Carmen Silva and Preta Ferreira, thank you for reflecting on our research and sharing your knowledge. Special thanks to Preta for such a touching moment singing for us. To the dwellers of Residential Cambridge and Ocupação São Francisco. To Cecilia, the cooks in Cozinha Solidaria, thank you for your time and kindness in cooking such fantastic food for us. To the dwellers in Ocupação Lelia Gonzales for receiving us and showing us a new perspective of an occupation. To the Uzina and MST Leste 1 members for receiving us at Mutirão Carolina de Jesus.

Also, we want to acknowledge the immense effort the staff of FESPSP and DPU have put into bringing us to São Paulo and exposing us to such a diverse and exciting city. To Carolina Requena for supporting our research. To Ariane and all language facilitators who were always with us, reducing our communication struggle. To Giovanna, Laia, Dina, and Giorgio for being close to support us, especially in moments when emotions were rushing. We know it is hard work, and we want to thank you.

4. BUDD Cohort and Staff 2023/24 with partners from FESPSP and MSTC at Ocupação 9 de julho
Source: Instagram Cozinha Ocupação 9 de julho, 2024

team



Milagros Vidal
(ela/she)
Argentina

Sao paulo is a beautiful vibrant city im so happy to be here and cant wait to see more!

Sharon Paul
(você/ela/they/she)
Qatar

I was surprised by the ethnic diversity in the city and how great the fruit juice was

Nitika Anand
(ela/she)
India

The hustle and bustle of São Paulo kind of reminds me of India, you know? It's got that same vibrant energy and chaotic charm.

Ricky - Zhenhui Cheng
(ele/he)
China

The temperature and environment in Sao Paulo, Brazil, reminded me of Shenzhen, and the tall palm trees I saw when I got off the plane put me in a bit of a trance for a moment.

Karl - Cong Ye
(ele/he)
China

I was amazed by the beautiful and meaningful graffiti. I think it reflects a high level of art and inclusiveness. I also like the dogs in this city very much. They make people feel very relaxed.

Jose Cepero
(ele/he)
Peru

São Paulo surprised me with a lot of street art! I love how the walls show the potential and creativity of those who live here.

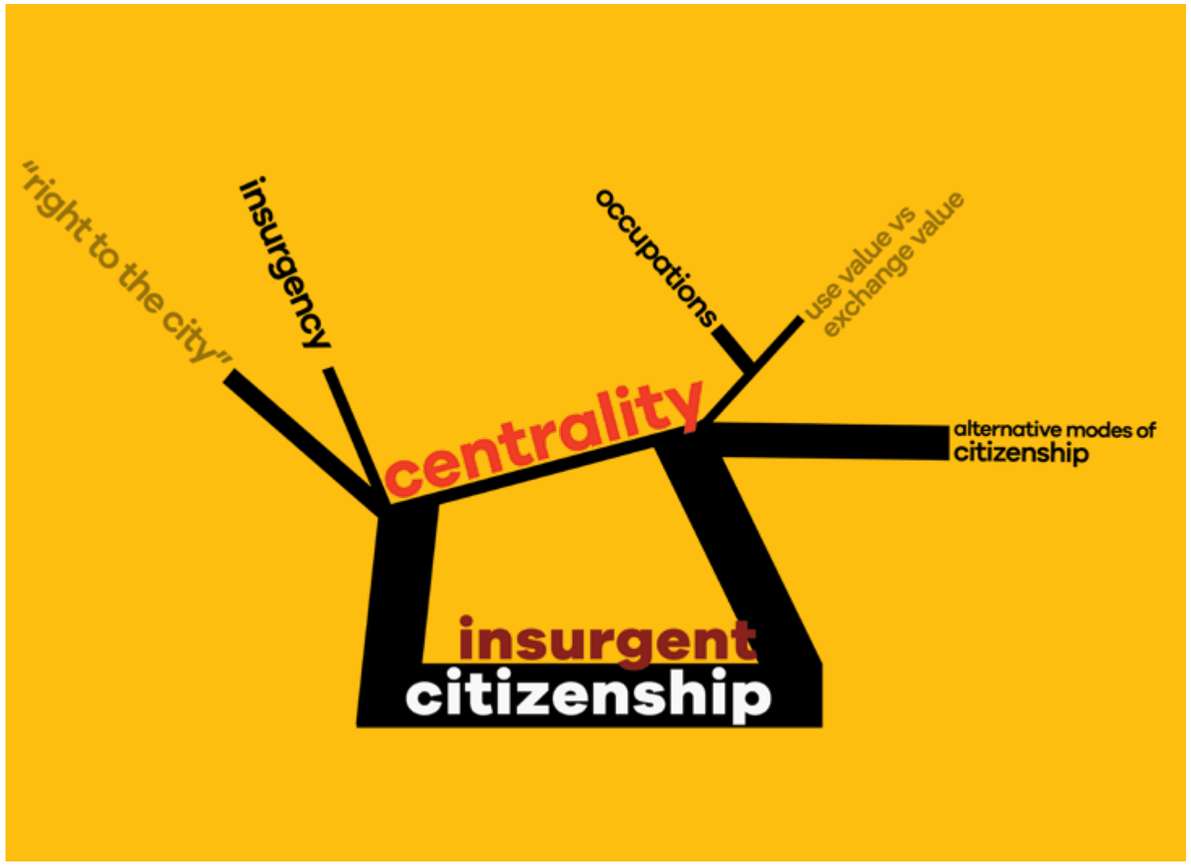
executive summary

In São Paulo, the connection between citizenship, space, and politics conjoins in housing crises, socio-spatial inequities, and the logic of exclusionary urban governance. Despite legal recognition of the "Right to the City" (Brazil, 2001), housing for marginalised people remains scarce, perpetuating an ongoing struggle for housing rights. In response, informal practices of occupying vacant buildings have emerged to contest exclusion and dispossession, redefining notions of citizenship and political membership.

Through a critical lens informed by performativity and care, this research explores the spatial practices of insurgent citizenship within São Paulo's inner-city occupations and their claim to centrality. Drawing on Judith Butler's theory of performativity, the study investigates how everyday care practices within these occupations produce new forms of citizenship, challenging hegemonic narratives and reshaping urban space. Grounded in a decolonial framework, the research engages with the lived experiences of occupiers and movements' narratives around the housing struggle while acknowledging the complex dynamics of power and privilege inherent in knowledge production and critically reflecting on our positionality.

Using a multi-phased methodology constituting contextualisation, analysis, engagement, and strategising, our research aims to articulate the emancipatory potentials of insurgent citizenship and offer possibilities for the co-production of knowledge on the care practices performed in São Paulo.

5. Concepts connecting the right to the city, occupations, and centrality to insurgent citizenship
Source: Authors



context

In Brazil, cities are defined by their political role within the governmental body, irrespective of their geographical location. In this sense, the city serves as a seat for political participation, and every city is legally designated as a capital of citizen participation (Holston, 2008). However, the story of São Paulo's city centre unfolds with the longstanding dissonance between its citizens and the urban space, characterised by the housing crises, socio-spatial inequities, peripheralisation, precarious dwelling conditions, and unequal urban redevelopment. O

ver the years, nontemporal patterns of the urban struggle produced disconcerting political consequences, where the separation between the citizen and their city fragmented the experience of political membership and disillusioned the notion of traditional "citizenship as the principal mode that affirms identity and belonging." (De Carli & Frediani, 2016, p.334).

From this stemmed 'urban insurgencies' (Holston, 2008) in São Paulo, an ongoing struggle toward a reimagined political membership in the city: "Insurgence describes a process that is an acting counter, a counter politics, that destabilises the present and renders it fragile, defamiliarising the coherence with which it usually presents itself... it bubbles up from the past in places where present circumstances seem propitious for an irruption" (Holston, 2008, p.33). In 2001, the City Statute formally acknowledged the 'Right to the City' (Brazil, 2001) as thought by Lefebvre and was made enforceable by its municipalities (Earle, 2017). They committed to a paradigm shift that, in the words of Lefebvre, would enable "the transformation of society [that] presupposes a collective ownership and management of space founded on the permanent participation of the 'interested parties', with their multiple, varied and even contradictory interests". (1991, p.422).

Nonetheless, housing for marginalised populations remains scarce, perpetuating an ongoing housing crisis. Meanwhile, repeated attempts to revitalise deteriorating inner-city areas through public and private interventions have only reinforced patterns of displacement and reinstated neoliberal approaches to regeneration. In this context, starting from the mid-1990s, São Paulo's city centre witnessed the emergence "of informal practices of appropriating and occupying vacant buildings led by housing movements" (De Carli & Frediani, 2016, p.337) as a means to disrupt mechanisms of oppression and dispossession claiming the urban space.

Thinking with Holston, we turn to his interpretation of Brazilian citizenship centred around citizens who assert their constitutional right through self-built or 'auto-constructed' spaces, laying claim to land, property, and urban infrastructures (Earle, 2012, p.98). We understand the spatial practice of squatting and reclaiming abandoned areas in São Paulo as the practice that insurgent citizens enact to claim their centrality and reaffirm the social function of property defined in the Brazilian constitution (Brazil, 2001).

By practising insurgent regeneration, insurgent citizens not only implement the law but bring about new civic arrangements, reimagined membership and new forms of collective becoming, as seen in the case of Ocupação 9 de Julho, where we mainly ground the research inquiry.

The City Statute (2001) operates within a framework that advocates a social contract based on the logic of social justice and neoliberal market mechanisms; in other words, the State operates as an intermediary between public and private interests in urban redevelopments. This legislation conveys the rationale and ethics of housing movements aiming to reimagine a new civic arrangement while concurrently maintaining the orthodoxy of property laws and negotiating leverage of private entities in conversations regarding the use of urban space.

From the disunion, the housing movement Movimento Sem-Teto do Centro (MSTC), our partner in this research, was birthed — a movement that emerged in 2001 as a radical agent in disrupting the expanding dissonance between governmental rhetoric and urban planning procedures. Today, it embodies occupations of insurgent practices going beyond traditional conceptions of citizenship, engaging in alternative dwelling practices, and

6. View of São Paulo cityscape from Ocupação 9 de Julho
Source: Authors

7. Protest for 'Diretas-Já' in São Paulo's Sé Square in 1985
Source: Fundação Perseu Abramo, n.d.
Photo: Roberto Parizotti / Archive CBSH/FPA

reopening political membership through socio-spatial acts of recognition, care and solidarity.

Consequently, MSTC highlights marginalised communities' creative and adaptive practices to carve out spaces of belonging and dignity within the city. Therefore, we begin our analysis with insurgent citizenship as a foundation for discussing how the formal practices of occupying and rehabilitating unoccupied buildings in São Paulo "facilitates the emergence of more expansive and inclusive ideas of regeneration" (2016. p.337).

Connecting with "Insurgent Regeneration: Spatial Practices of Citizenship in the Rehabilitation of Inner-City São Paulo", De Carli and Frediani argue that the occupation of unused buildings by marginalised communities in São Paulo exemplifies alternative urban regeneration practices. These practices provide housing and foster new political community and civic engagement forms. They assert that these occupations' informal and community-led nature challenges the exclusionary practices of traditional urban regeneration.

Here, it is essential to acknowledge the complex dynamics within MSTC and other movements occupations, including tensions between different factions within the movement and challenges related to security, sanitation, and access to critical services, is essential. Additionally, state authorities and property owners' responses to these occupations often involve coercive measures to evict occupants and maintain the status quo, reinforcing the enduring power differentials inherent to the city.

Departing from the notion that 'insurgent citizenship' creates new spaces in São Paulo via occupations that activate counter-hegemonic practices and create new personal and collective meanings in the city, we research the modalities and care practices in everyday life that produce new forms of citizenship and political becoming in the town. Mindful of the radical spatial reimaginations within the occupation, we push the reflection further to consider the multiple actors and roles in the production of urban space and assert the Right to the City to extend our research on the emancipatory political potential of dwellers in informal settlements.

urban struggle in time

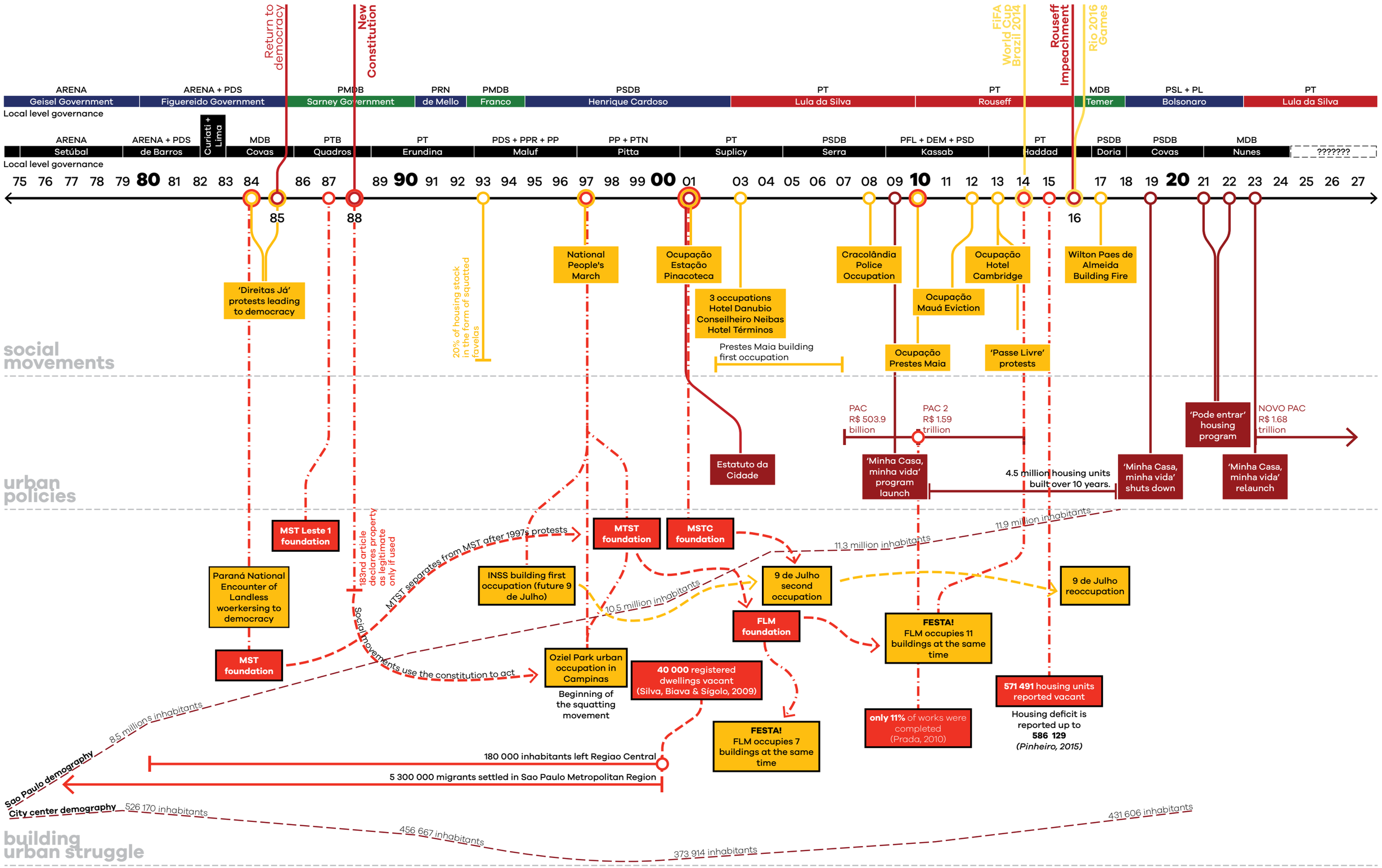
The housing struggle in São Paulo has been shaped by a series of interconnected phenomena, including changes within the city centre, the implementation of housing policies, and the foundation of social movements.

Since 1984, housing movements have been essential in reshaping urban space in inner-city São Paulo. Following the foundation of movements like the MTST (Homeless Workers' Movement) and the MSTC, these began to counteract state policies that marginalise people, particularly in the housing sector. This insurgency culminated in 1997 with the occupation of Oziel Park in Campinas, a pivotal event that sparked a wave of the squatting movement in São Paulo.

Throughout the late 1980s and beyond, as São Paulo's population grew, transportation and real estate investments led to a demographic shift, pushing wealthier residents out of the city centre and leaving behind vacant properties. Many building owners stopped paying taxes, further exacerbating the problem of urban decay. By occupying abandoned properties, the movements argue that they are fulfilling the social function of property ownership.

Critical occupations such as Prestes Maia (FLM), Hotel Cambridge (MSTC), Ocupação Mauá (MTST), and Nove de Julho (MSTC) have emerged as symbols of resistance and resilience within São Paulo's urban landscape.

Overall, the timeline of urban struggle in São Paulo reflects the ongoing tensions between state policies, market forces, and grassroots movements seeking to reclaim the city's public spaces and resources for the benefit of all residents. It underscores the importance of collective action and social mobilisation in addressing urban development processes' systemic injustices and inequalities.



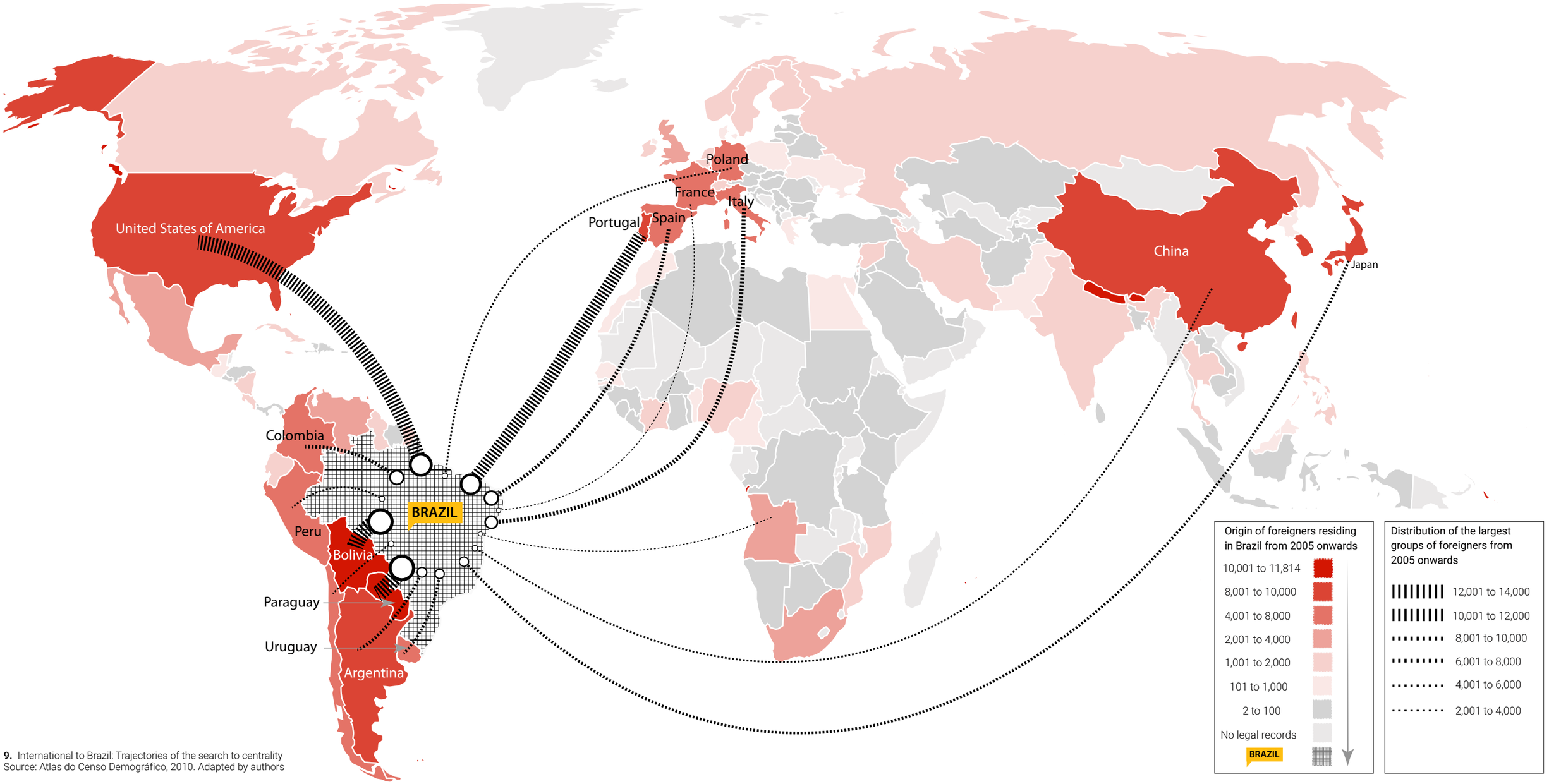
8. Timeline: Unveiling the urban struggle and the instrumental role of housing movements in reshaping São Paulo's claim to centrality and political membership rotest for 'Diretas-Já' in São Paulo's Sé Square in 1985
Source: Authors

migration trajectories

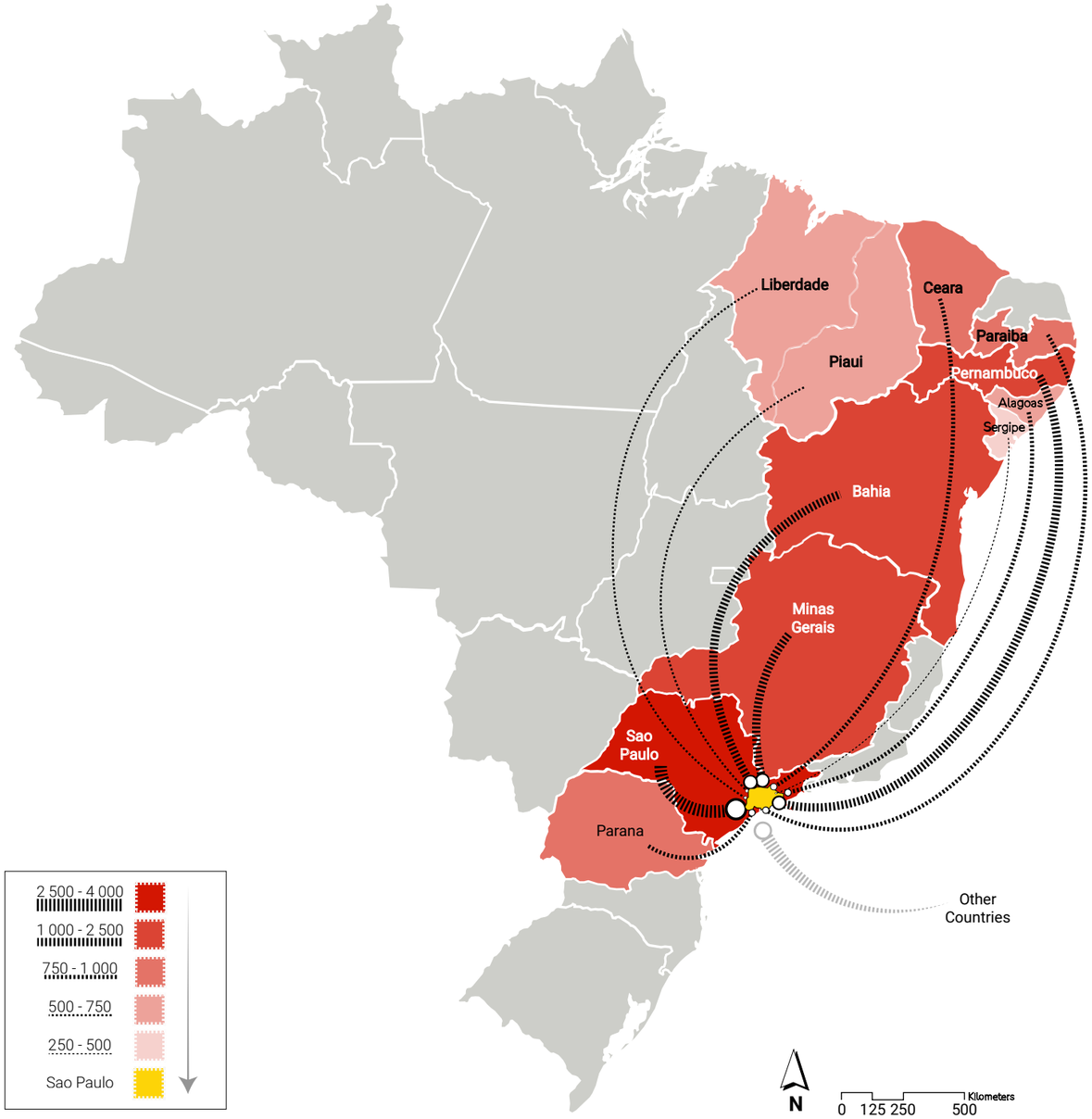
The "search for centrality" in São Paulo refers to the search for political, social, economic, and spatial centrality within the city. Centrality extends to essential services, infrastructure, employment opportunities, and cultural expression. The search for centrality among São Paulo's migrant populations is an intricate journey characterised by resilience and agency. The concept of "invaders and builders" shows how rural-urban migrants from impoverished regions of Brazil arrive in São Paulo seeking economic opportunities and a better quality of life (Holston, 2009). While settling in peripheral areas may offer more affordable housing options, they seek more than just a living space; they actively strive to participate in São Paulo's economic engine.

By accessing employment opportunities, education, and social networks, they attempt to establish themselves as integral contributors to São Paulo's urban space, forging a sense of centrality that extends beyond physical location.

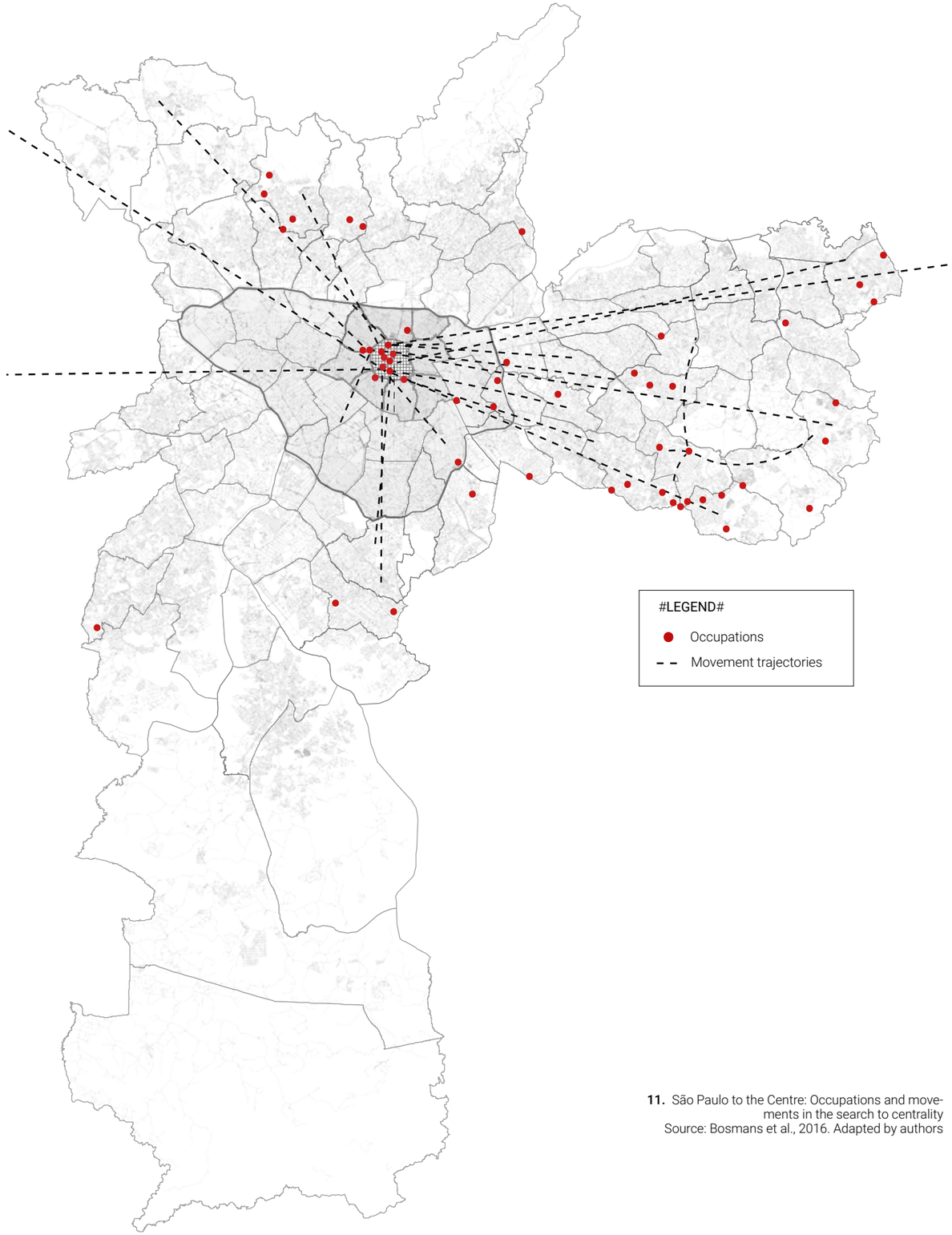
Similarly, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within São Paulo represent another facet of migration trajectories emergent from displacement and dispossession (Earle, 2010). For IDPs fleeing conflict, environmental disasters, or other crises, the search for centrality represents a profound desire to rebuild their lives and communities within São Paulo. Despite the trauma of displacement, these individuals are determined to find a sense of belonging and stability within the city. Additionally, Earle's emphasis on the agency of ethnic and cultural communities sheds light on migrants who arrive in São Paulo seeking to preserve their cultural identity and heritage.



9. International to Brazil: Trajectories of the search to centrality
Source: Atlas do Censo Demográfico, 2010. Adapted by authors



10. Brazil to São Paulo: Trajectories of the search to centrality
Source: Skop et al., 2006. Adapted by authors



11. São Paulo to the Centre: Occupations and movements in the search to centrality
Source: Bosmans et al., 2016. Adapted by authors

12. A housing protest in inner-city São Paulo in front of the Municipal Theatre
Source: Authors

housing struggle

Earle's "displacement and dispossession" framework illuminates the experiences of those affected by São Paulo's housing crisis. Forced evictions, land grabbing, and gentrification threaten the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, relegating them to the margins of society and sustaining patterns of deprivation and disparity.

Organisations like MTST and MSTC have been at the forefront of this struggle, organising occupations, protests, and advocacy campaigns to demand housing rights and dignified living conditions for São Paulo's most vulnerable populations. Through acts of occupation, MSTC members and self-organisation have challenged the narrative of São Paulo as a city divided by class and privilege, asserting the right of all residents to live with dignity and respect.

13. Mural on the entrance of Ocupação 9 de Julho
Source: Authors

14. A housing protest in inner-city São Paulo
Source: Authors

15. Housing shacks on the land occupation Ocupação Leila Gonzalez
Source: Authors

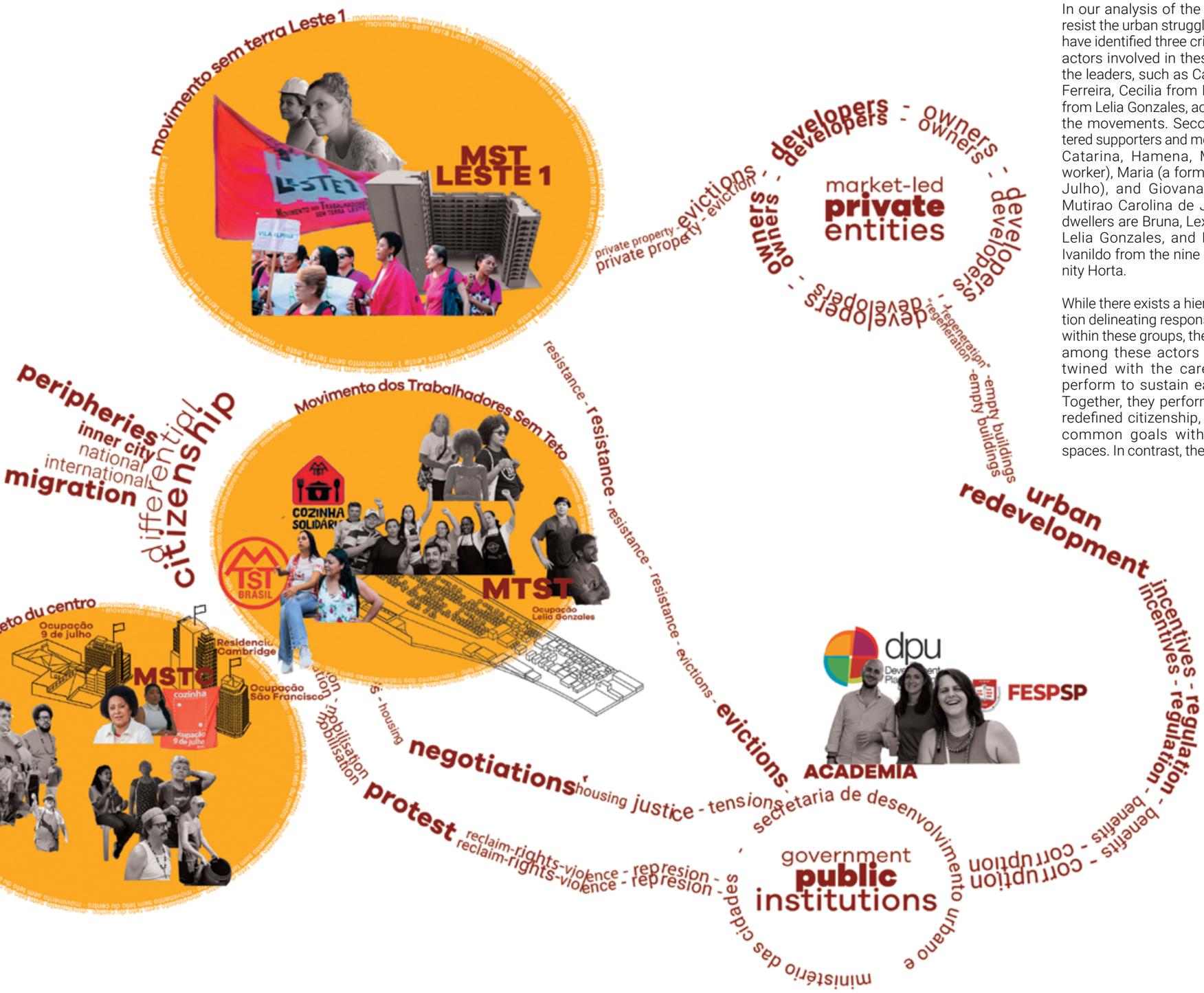
16. Initial processes of occupying abandoned structures
Source: Authors

search for centrality

Occupying abandoned buildings is a prevalent insurgency undertaken by homeless individuals and grassroots organisations like MTST and MSTC. Additionally, marginalised communities engage in land occupation and squatting to secure housing, transforming vacant lots into communal living spaces (see Figure 14). Legal advocacy and policy reform efforts complement direct action, with MTST and MSTC employing litigation, campaigns, and lobbying to challenge unjust laws and institutionalised oppression.

These multifaceted insurgent practices aim to systematically address urban inequality and displacement, illustrating a proactive approach to reshaping the city's social and spatial dynamics. Here, it is essential to note that though some occupations lie on the peripheries, they are inherently connected to inner-city occupations.

17. 'Qui está o povo que nao tem medo de lutar'. Here is the people who are not scared to fight graffiti at Ocupacao Lelia Gonzalez
Source: Authors



18. Stakeholder map of the networks who counteract the urban struggle by rethinking the scale of citizenship
Source: Authors

actor mapping

In our analysis of the occupations that resist the urban struggle in São Paulo, we have identified three critical categories of actors involved in these spaces. Firstly, the leaders, such as Carmen Silva, Petra Ferreira, Cecilia from MTST, and Joana from Lelia Gonzales, actively coordinated the movements. Secondly, we encountered supporters and members like Rafael, Catarina, Hamena, Marcia (a social worker), Maria (a former dweller of 9 de Julho), and Giovana from USINA at Mutirao Carolina de Jesus. Lastly, the dwellers are Bruna, Lexia, Grindelia from Lelia Gonzales, and Donha Irene and Ivanildo from the nine de Julho community Horta.

While there exists a hierarchical organisation delineating responsibilities for action within these groups, the daily interactions among these actors are deeply intertwined with the care practices they perform to sustain each other's lives. Together, they perform and claim their redefined citizenship, working towards common goals within the occupied spaces. In contrast, the state is perceived as an obscure entity comprised of various actors who shape São Paulo's urban landscape through formal regulations and economic considerations.

Additionally, within the occupation, we encountered Alberto, a researcher practising research-based activism embodying the dynamic and context-dependent nature of roles within the movement. This interaction drew us to the fluidity and interconnectedness of roles, challenging fixed distinctions. Practitioners and researchers, like ourselves, play a role as supporters and observers of the formulation of insurgent citizenship. We stand at the intersection of academia and the movements, offering support and insight while documenting and analysing the dynamics within these spaces. We found that the partnership between academia and the movements holds the potential for mutual learning and collaboration, enriching our understanding of insurgent citizenship and its implications for urban governance and social justice.

framing research & engagement

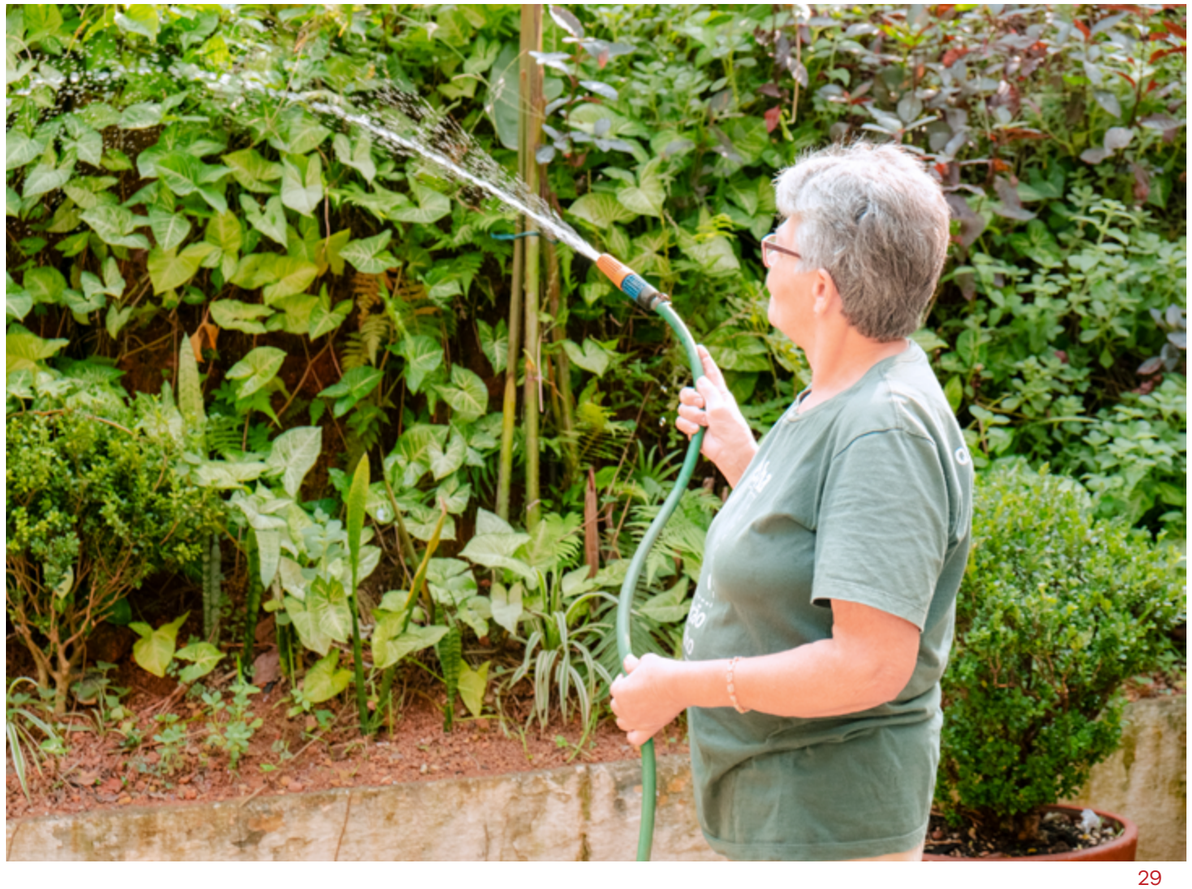
research question

Our research offers a critical exploration into the performance of care practices and the emancipatory potentials of insurgent citizenship in São Paulo. We raise questions about the modalities of claiming the Right to the City and reconstructing political membership through the collective act of occupying the centre. Going beyond constructing a new collective citizenship, we aim to demonstrate the heterogeneous realities in which insurgent occupiers live and care. We connect our research to the insurgent citizens' processes, co-creations and collective performances. Thus, our study investigates the following question:

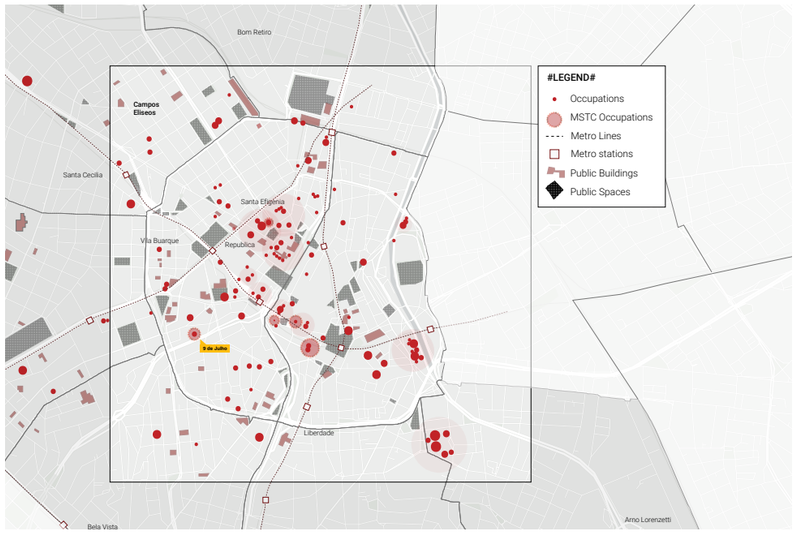
What are the practices enacted and performed in everyday life that produce new forms of citizenship and enable insurgent citizens to claim centrality in São Paulo?

19. Practices of Care Appear as the Daily Maintenance of the Compost Heap at Ocupação 9 de Julho
Source: Authors

20. Practices of care appear by taking on roles such as Irene, who cares for the garden at Ocupação 9 de Julho
Source: Authors

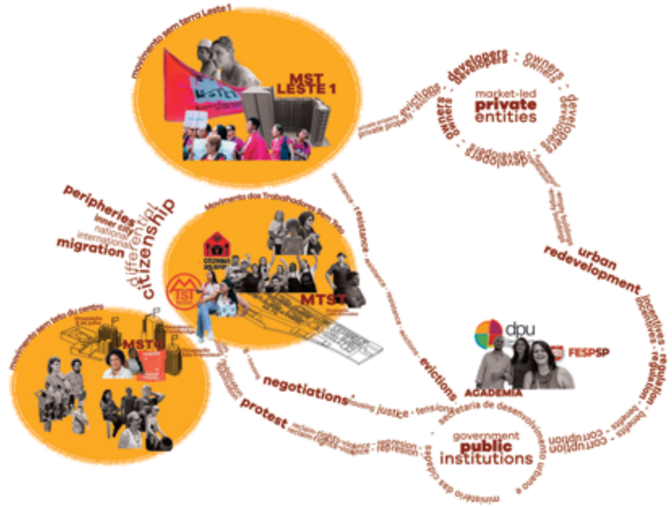


21. Map of MSTC Occupations
Source: Authors



contextualisation
defining urban struggle

22. Stakeholder Map
Source: Authors



analysis
networks of insurgency

24. Community garden at Ocupação 9 de Julho
Source: Authors

engagement
mapping of care practices

23. Atlas of Care-togrpaghies
Source: Authors

strategising
care-tographies

methodology & methods

Our analysis unfolds four phases: contextualisation, analysis, engagement, and strategising. In the contextualisation phase (found under the introduction), we build a timeline detailing several documented events to offer the research a chronological awareness of the histories and time relationships that led to the urban struggle in São Paulo. We framed a conceptual body based on existing literature to drive our research question and the analytical lens we applied to the engagement phase.

Subsequently, we use a cartographic exercise to represent the trajectories of 'Movements' by gathering open data through GIS and superimposing appropriate socio-political and cultural information. This provides multiple trajectories of insurgent citizenship in the demand for political recognition across different scales.

For the analysis phase (found under the introduction), we conduct an actor mapping exercise tailored to the MSTC, MTST, and MST Leste 1 movement to identify the key stakeholders counteracting and resisting the urban struggle. This was later tailored to the actors we engaged with and their roles within the movements. By charting the various actors involved, including grassroots organisers, community leaders, movement supporters and dwellers, we gained insights into their positions, connections, interactions and formulations within the movement.

Conversely, the research was limited by a lack of contact with stakeholders from the local government and other relevant entities influencing the housing struggle.

This nuanced understanding enables us to grasp the heterogeneous network and power negotiations unfolding among these stakeholders. Subsequently, through critical and constructive reflection grounded in our conceptual framework, we leverage the insights gained from the actor mapping exercise to cultivate insurgent cartographies, highlighting the spatial dimensions of the MSTC, MTST, and other movement struggles. By analysing the MSTC, MTST, and other movement actors, agencies, strategies, and spatial interventions, we understand the networks and practices involved in the demand for visibility and political recognition.

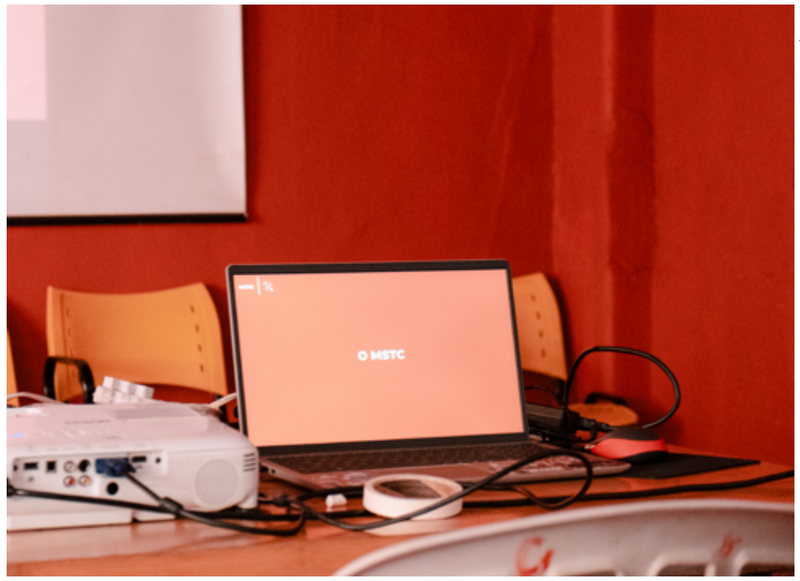
During the engagement phase in São Paulo, we engaged with leaders, activists, dwellers, and supporters of the MSTC, MTST, and MST Leste 1 social movements to map the different networks and forms of care practices comprehensively. Through urban walks, facilitated discussions, and asset inventory exercises, we documented the material conditions of care practices, networks, and infrastructures within the occupation and across different organisations. Building on the insights gathered from phases one and two, we conducted ethnographic fieldwork to capture the lived experiences and stories behind the care practices we observed.

Through participant observation, interviews, and narrative documentation, we documented the socio-material narratives and relational dynamics that shape the

discussion exercise during one of the significant gatherings at Ocupação Nove de Julho, during the communal Sunday lunch. We hung up a large sheet at this event in the gathering space. We invited all attendees, including community leaders, activists, and dwellers, to collectively reflect on the question, “Como você faz a cidade?” or “How do you make the city?” Participants had the opportunity to share stories, insights, and visions for the future of their city, emphasising the importance of reimagined citizenship in shaping the city’s identity and trajectory.

In the strategising phase, we analysed and interpreted the spatial, visual data and narratives collected in phases one, two and three to create ‘Care-tographies’ that visualise the spatial dimensions of care within the movement. Drawing on GIS technology and data visualisation tools, we map the networks, people, practices, and care performed across MSTC and MTST and within specific occupations, highlighting patterns, connections, and practices. Lastly, we propose an ‘Atlas of Care-tographies’. A process-based initiative seeking to co-produce knowledge on the care practices, trajectories and narratives performed by the ones involved in the squatting movement in São Paulo. We drafted the proposal as a first glance at what may be possible to tackle new urban transformations. Through a final feedback session, we incorporate feedback from partners to prioritise insights into the design and content of the atlas.

25. BUDD Cohort and Staff 2023/24 with partners from FESPSP and MSTC at Ocupação 9 de julho after first engagement session
Source: Authors



26. MSTC Background on a laptop at Ocupação 9 de julho during engagement session
Source: Authors

posisionality & reflexivity

We reflect on our position with decolonial thinkers, particularly Walter Mignolo, to show the extent to which hierarchical and categorial binaries are central to a colonial tradition within which we academically operate, often leading to epistemic blindness. This acknowledgement prompts us to confront our positionality through epistemic disobedience, a deliberate act to disrupt colonial knowledge traditions. In doing so, we relinquish the notion of making claims to contribution and instead centre the knower within the known.

Our commitment to epistemic disobedience manifests in two ways. Firstly, we challenge the colonial binaries, such as objectivity/subjectivity and rationality/emotions, by embracing the concept of ‘Pluriversality’ (Mingolo, 2007). This involves recognising and honouring the diversity of perspectives and ways of knowing that exist beyond the confines of colonial epistemology. Secondly, we recognise the importance of situating ourselves within the processes of oppression inherent to knowledge production traditions to work against colonial epistemology.

By critically reflecting on our positionality and intersectional identities, we uncover the patterns of privilege inherent in our academic and personal backgrounds while acknowledging their limitations on our research and understanding.

performance of insurgent citizenship

Within the occupation, insurgent citizenship unfolds not as a static condition but as a dynamic process embedded in iterative and performative enactments of care, where everyday practices of solidarity, nurturance, and mutual support serve as potent sites of resistance against systems of exclusion. Analysed through Butler's ideas of performativity, insurgent citizens engage in various forms of performative actions, such as protests, occupations, and community organising, to assert their agency and demand recognition of their rights.

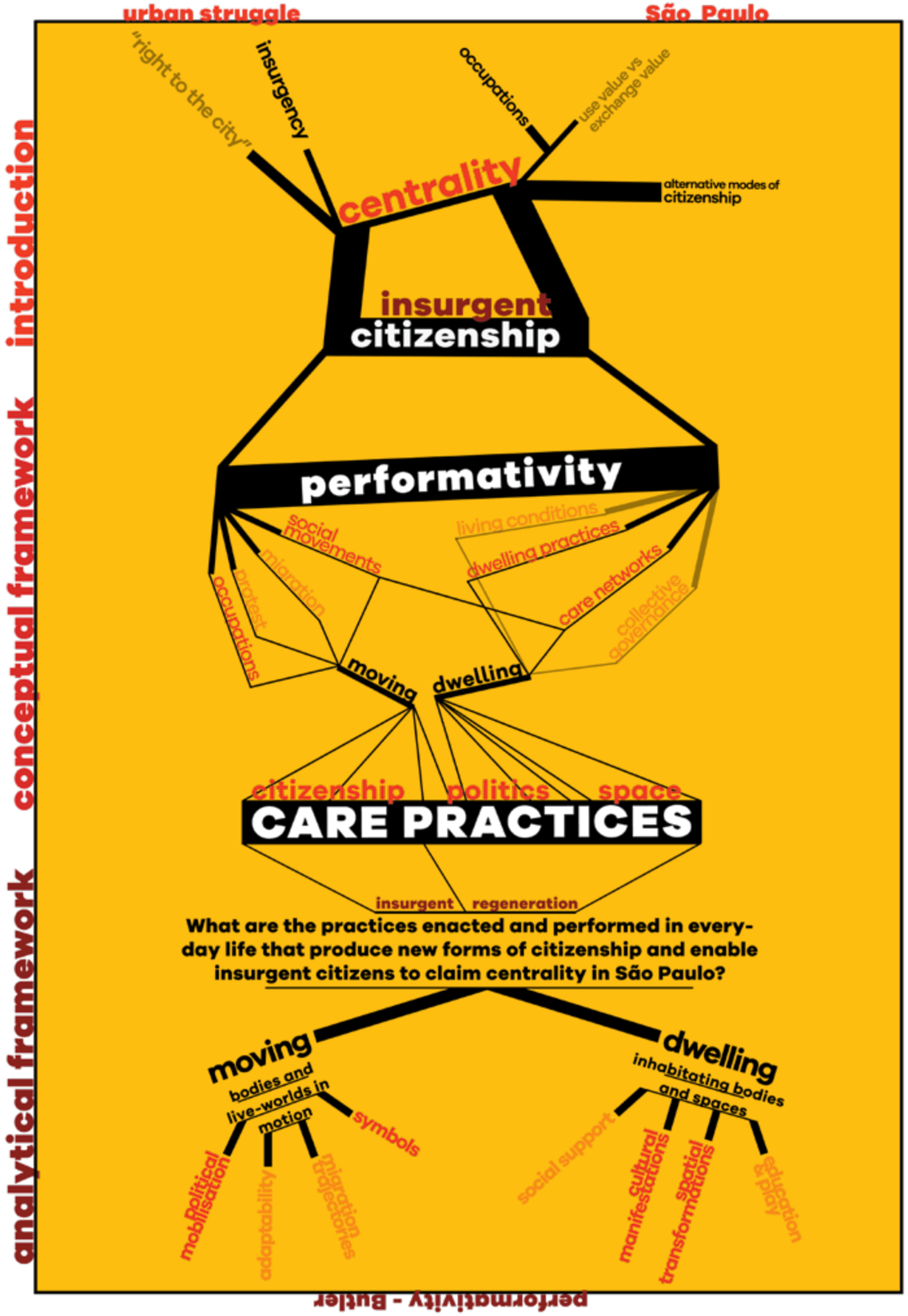
Their collective actions challenge normative notions of citizenship and create new possibilities for political participation and social transformation. Moreover, we see Butler's concept of precarity is pertinent to the experience of the occupiers, as she notes, "precariousness as a more or less existential condition of embodied beings living in a shared world" (2010, p.3).

Our research found that everyday acts of care, from communal gardening to collective maintenance, embody this performativity within São Paulo's occupations. By performing care, occupiers blur the boundaries between self and others, cultivating collective agency grounded in solidarity and empathy. This performativity produces collective life within the occupation while challenging normative prescriptions. We recognise the transformative potential of care practices in fostering a sense of collective identity and belonging among occupiers.

Thus, the concepts of performativity and care invite us to rethink the spatial politics of São Paulo's occupations. Lastly, we must recognise the gendered dimensions of care and performativity within São Paulo's occupations. Butler highlights how caring practices are often gendered and devalued within patriarchal systems, yet they also hold transformative potential for challenging gender norms and fostering alternative modes of social organisation. By centring the experiences and voices of women and marginalised peoples within the occupation, we amplify the performative power of care in creating inclusive notions of citizenship (See annexe).

Our research inquiry begins to ground itself within this articulation of performativity, care, and insurgent citizenship. We engage with a Butlerian notion of the relational, situated, and embodied everyday care practices within the occupation to formulate two analytical lenses that inquire into 1. the moving (social movements, migration), the political demand for recognition, and 2. the dwelling practices of the occupation.

27. Art expressions portrating people fromOcupação 9 de julho
Source: Authors



28. Conceptual and analytical framework for research. Resume diagram for research proposal
Source: Authors

analysing insurgent citizenship in São Paulo

Addressing our research question necessitates drawing from our concepts to formulate an analytical framework that investigates performativity, care, and insurgent citizenship in the search for centrality. Our analytical framework unfolds as such — the first analytical lens aims to examine the 'Movements' of insurgent citizenship in São Paulo. Here, 'Movements' are proposed as trajectories of migration, the search for centrality, housing movements, protests, and insurgent occupations, where we trace the movements and patterns of insurgency through a cartographic exercise to visualise and string together the connections between location and insurgency thereby offering a critical expansion across the different scales and dimensions of insurgent citizenship.

The second analytical model aims to explore 'Dwelling' within Ocupação 9 de Julho. We intend to engage with and connect to the people, their infrastructures, and the performances of everyday rituals and practices within the occupation that support the emergence of affirmative ways of being and new political membership in the city.

29. December 2013 MTST protest at Paulista Avenue.
Flag message: For dignified housing now!
Source: Focaal Blog
Photo: Marcelo Camargo

moving (political & symbols)

'Moving' means any mobilisation enacted through housing movements, migration trajectories, and protests. These movements are inherently dynamic and characterised by heterogeneity, repeated processes, and iterative tendencies. They manifest in diverse modalities, reflecting the evolving nature of the challenges and aspirations of the movement.

We wanted to capture that essence in our research, recognising movements not as static entities but as fluid phenomena in constant flux. Furthermore, it is essential to acknowledge that 'movements' operate at the urban scale, intersecting with and influencing cities' spatial and social fabric.

In São Paulo, we saw the performative dimension extend beyond physical relocation to encompass the processes of mobilisation, where individuals actively engage in public protests, assemblies, and political participation to assert their agency and demand justice. Moreover, political mobilisation serves as a method for the performative construction of political identities and demands.

Carmen, Rafael, and Cecilia articulate that acts like protests, meetings, and collective assemblies become potent tools for asserting rights and demanding recognition. Butler's concept of performativity highlights how these engagements are not merely events but deliberate acts of political formation, where the

30. MSTC symbols that move around as part of the performance to spread visibility
Source: Authors

performative expression of care practices becomes a means of reclaiming space, building solidarity, and fostering political membership. In conversations with Carmen, Rafael, and Cecilia, they talk about how their roles embody the intertwining of mobilisation with care practices, as individuals come together publicly to address the material needs demands for housing, healthcare, and social welfare.

Within the struggle for housing and the claim to citizenship, symbols emerged as essential representations. Here, symbols transcend mere aesthetics; they function as active components of performative care practices, embodying marginalised communities' collective aspirations, values, and demands.

Flags, graffiti, merchandise, and symbolic structures are tangible expressions of resistance, reclaiming space, asserting presence, and representing the urban struggle. For instance, raised high above occupation sites, flags play a crucial role in conveying a visible sense of unity and purpose among both the members of the movements and transforming physical space into a symbolic territory of resistance.

Graffiti, similarly, serves as a strategic form of symbolic resistance, transforming urban environments into spaces for political expression and social commentary. Walls adorned with murals and insurgent slogans become sites of collective culture, memory and resistance, making visible

the often-silenced struggles of marginalised communities. MSTC Merchandise, like t-shirts, banners, and tote bags, extends the visibility of movements beyond physical occupation sites, turning everyday objects into accessible and wearable symbols of solidarity and resistance.

These items serve as mobile expressions of the movement's ideals, spreading awareness and amplifying its message daily; it embodies a collective effort to reshape the urban landscape in ways that prioritise the needs and aspirations of marginalised communities.

We also saw the symbolic significance of structures like shacks in Lelia Gonzales's land occupation go beyond their shelter function; they represent tangible assertions of presence and visibility in the struggle for housing rights. Constructed from any materials available, these shacks serve as physical manifestations of claim-staking, embodying the resilience and determination of families engaged in the fight for dignified housing.

31. Women from Cozinha Ocupação 9 de Julho serving at the Sunday Lunch wearing symbols from the movement
Source: Authors

32. The performance of care coming together as the Sunday Lunch through flags, housing movement, merchandise, and political appearance
Source: Authors

33. Symbols of MTST as a flag
Source: Authors

34. (Care) Networks of people involved in the Cozinha solidaria
Source: Authors

dwelling (networks and culture)

In examining the performativity of insurgent citizenship at the dwelling scale, particularly within the ocupação Nove de Julho, we observe a multifaceted engagement with care practices that go beyond mere political formation; it extends toward profound recognition and mutual support, especially in spaces where the establishment fails to do so.

Throughout our engagement, we saw that the performativity of citizenship within the occupation is embodied through care networks and cultural activities. Notably, women like Marcia, a dedicated social worker assisting families in their search for centrality, and Irene, who cares for the garden, enact two crucial roles through care practices to sustain the occupation's functionality.

Shifting our focus to the expression of culture within the ocupação Nove de Julho, we discern how art serves as a potent medium for care and community cohesion. Carmen expressed the state's tendency to compartmentalise social welfare aspects such as culture, education, housing, and health, whereas the movement seeks integration, with housing acting as the doorway.

Murals, performances, and various artistic representations within the occupation serve as symbols of defiance, offering a visual and emotional counterpoint to external perceptions and experiences of marginalised people. These cultural practices solidify the co-creation of a shared space reflective of their aspirations and struggles.

These care practices at the dwelling scale are integral to insurgent regeneration. De Carli and Frediani's framework of insurgent regeneration emphasises how marginalised communities, through their informal practices, challenge traditional

urban regeneration models and enact that these communities are not merely passive recipients of policy failures but active agents of urban transformation. At Ocupação Nove de Julho, the care practices performed by residents like Marcia and Irene exemplify how insurgent citizens actively participate in urban regeneration.

By occupying and rehabilitating abandoned buildings, they contrast state-led efforts, emphasising the importance of community-led initiatives in creating inclusive urban spaces. By engaging in alternative dwelling practices and socio-spatial acts of recognition, care, and solidarity, they critique traditional urban governance and highlight its inability to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. This transformation is not merely physical but socio-political, as it redefines the meaning of political membership and redevelopment in the urban context.

35. Local art initiatives occupy the space and place-make a community space within the city
Source: Authors

summary of analysis

36. The flag of the Cozinha 9 de Julho at the Sunday lunch that makes its way to t-shirts, bags, kitchen towels and other movements in the solidarity of MSTC
Source: Authors

insurgent regeneration through care

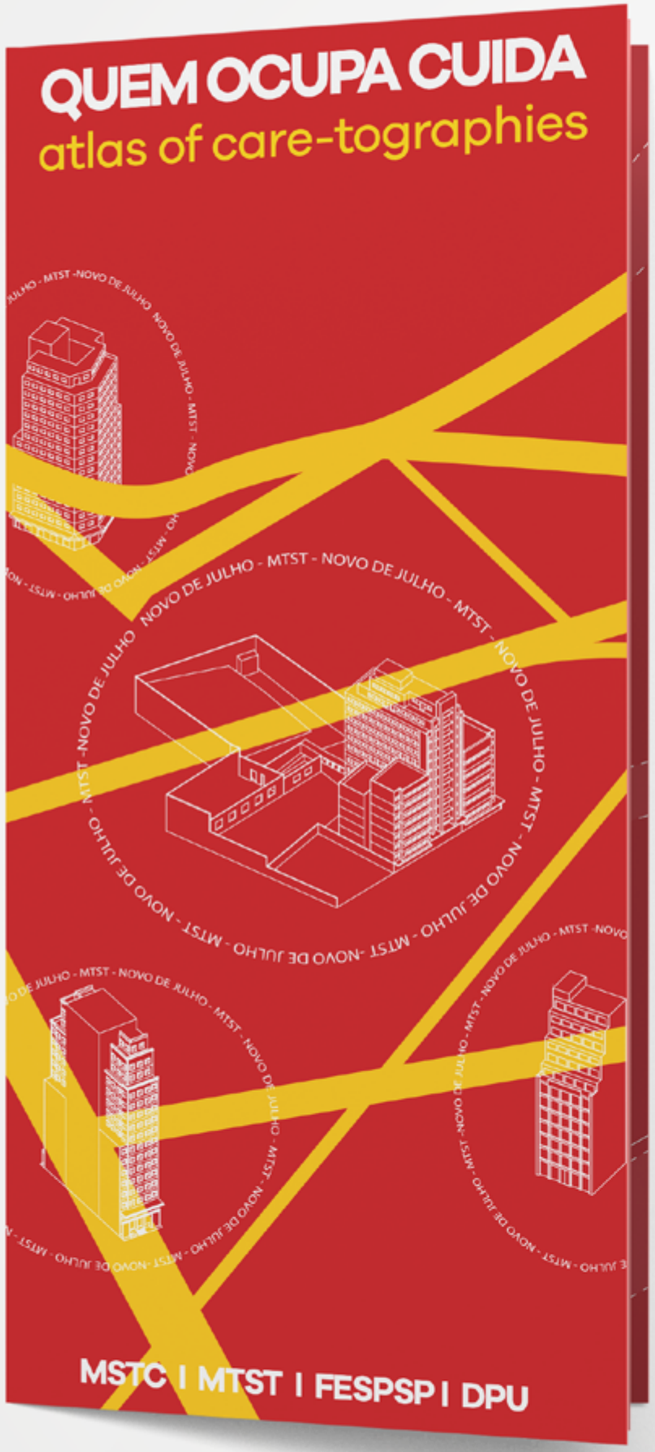
In São Paulo's urban struggle, people on the margins search for centrality through insurgency. The design research uncovers the performative nature of insurgent citizenship, where everyday practices of insurgent citizens serve as manifestations of reclaiming space and asserting agency. This performativity finds expression through repeated acts, particularly those rooted in care practices. Central to this narrative is the role of care as a form of political resistance. Here, care becomes a means of enacting citizenship, challenging hegemonic structures through nurturing communal spaces and fostering solidarity. These acts of care are not static but fluid, evolving through the iterative processes of movement, both physical and symbolic.

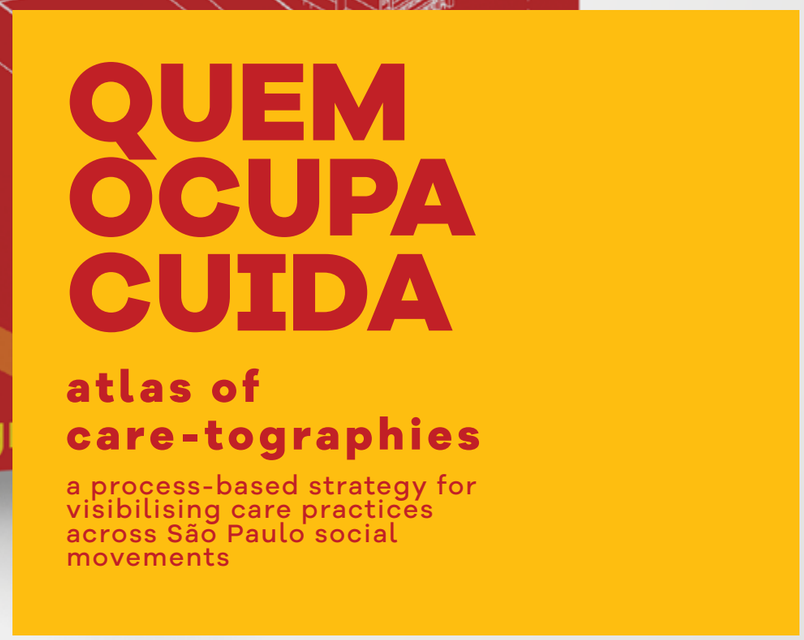
We analysed 'Moving' and many forms as a crucial channel for claiming rights and centrality in São Paulo. Whether through political activism, migration, or symbolic gestures, movement embodies a performative practice of care by transforming urban spaces into spaces that demand recognition. Care performance manifests through care networks and cultural expression at the occupation's dwelling scale. Traditionally understood as a set of rights defined by the state, citizenship is reimagined through everyday practices and communal engagement at the dwelling. Insurgent citizens claim their rights not through formal legal mechanisms but through active participation in creating and maintaining communal spaces. This redefinition of citizenship emphasises relational dynamics and collective responsibility, transcending the limitations of formal state recognition.

Through the everyday care practices of occupying and rehabilitating inner-city abandoned buildings, insurgent citizens claim their Right to the City and highlight their integral role in urban regeneration.

These practices are not merely acts of survival or maintenance; they are strategic and deliberate efforts to transform neglected spaces into vibrant, functional communities. By doing so, they challenge traditional top-down approaches to urban development and demonstrate that regeneration can be community-led and grounded in care and solidarity. These care practices' visibility asserts marginalised communities' presence and agency within urban regeneration and place-making. Ultimately, they show that citizenship and care can be rescaled and reterritorialised.

37. The community garden at the occupation, symbolising insurgent regeneration through community-led urban renewal and sustainable living practices
Source: Authors





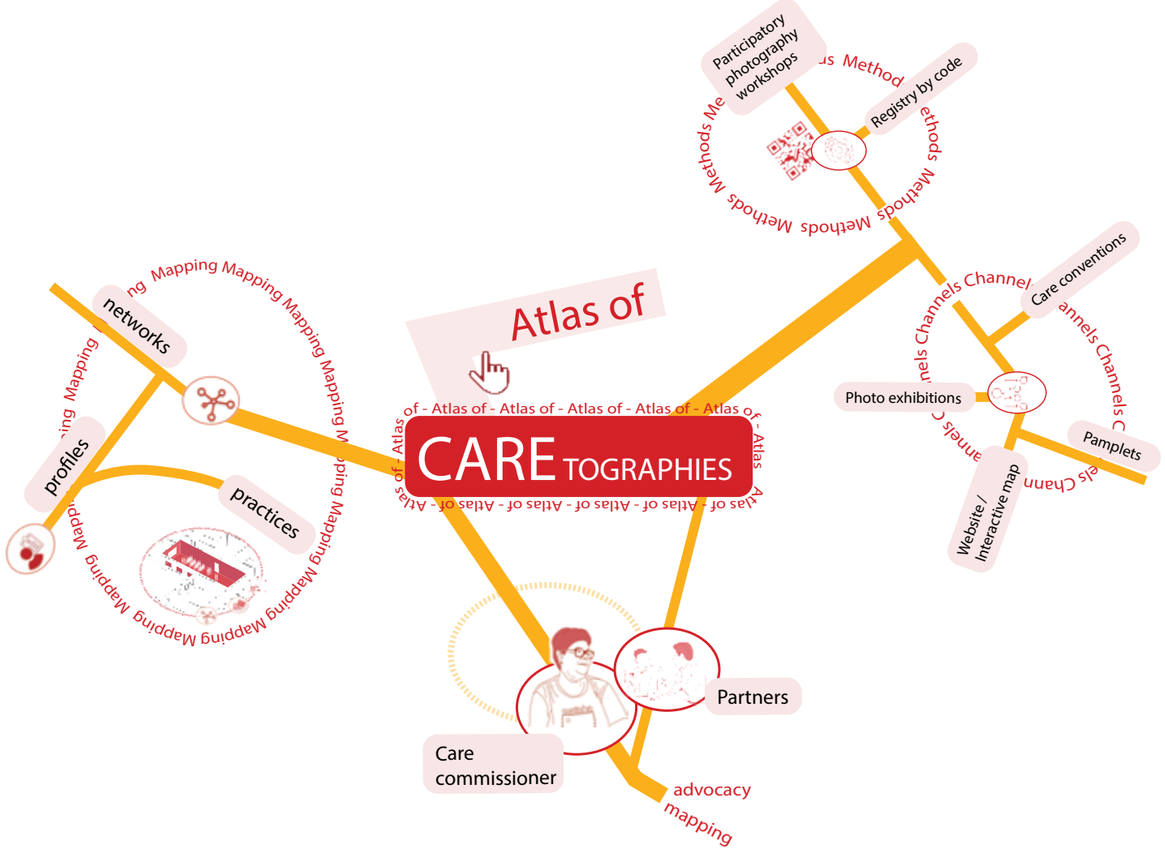
38. Atlas of Care-tographies pamphlet
Source: Authors

territorialising care

The performative nature of care practices within the occupations is intrinsic to formulating a reimagined citizenship. It presents a compelling tool for those on the margins to assert their rights in the city. In response, our design proposal aims to harness the performative potential of care practices by creating an Atlas of 'Care-tographies'.

This intervention seeks to visually capture and document the spatialised care practices performed within organised movements in São Paulo, such as MTST and MSTC. By establishing these practices, our Atlas aims to visibilise the role of care in sustaining insurgent occupations and expanding the boundaries of citizenship. This approach aligns with the ethos of insurgent regeneration, which prioritises bottom-up initiatives and community-led interventions to tackle urban challenges (De Carli & Frediani, 2016). Through our proposed Atlas of 'Care-tographies', our goal is to facilitate this process by offering a digital platform for communities to spearhead their urban development initiatives leveraging existing networks and practices of care.

39. Atlas dimensions including mapping categories, actors, methods and channels for difusion
Source: Authors



what is an 'atlas of care-tographies'?

The primary objective of the Atlas of 'Care-tographies' is to register, curate, and archive the diverse care practices and networks enacted within occupied buildings and land in São Paulo. By documenting emotional support, community organisation, and solidarity systems, Atlas aims to the practices of insurgent citizens in São Paulo's inner-city occupations to illustrate that urban regeneration is not solely the domain of formal state-led projects.

These networks extend beyond traditional familial ties to include 'parcerias' or partnerships with activists, volunteers, neighbours, and allied organisations. Care networks operate on principles of reciprocity, trust, and collective responsibility and have the potential to serve as a vital lifeline for marginalised communities.

why 'care-tographies'?
design objectives

The rationale behind the 'Atlas of Care-tographies' stems from its potential to address challenges marginalised communities face in São Paulo's inner-city occupations. Through extensive engagement with activists, leaders, partners, and members of these movements, we identified common issues, including criminalisation, invisibility, fragmentation, and a lack of data on occupation practices. As a response to these challenges, the Atlas serves as an initial step towards mitigating these issues and unlocking the transformative potential of insurgent practices at a spatial scale.

The secondary objective of the Atlas is to elevate the visibility of often-overlooked and undervalued care practices within insurgent communities. By documenting these practices comprehensively and presenting them in a visually engaging format, the Atlas aims to highlight the transformative contributions of occupants and activists in sustaining and nurturing their communities and built environments. Additionally, the Atlas is a central platform for gathering and producing data on care practices and networks within insurgent occupations.

Social movements associated with the occupation of land or inner-city abandoned buildings have often been unfairly stigmatised or criminalised (Santos, 2024). By prioritising "narrative centrality" and centring the narratives of care within insurgent communities, the Atlas seeks to challenge dominant narratives that perpetuate these stereotypes. Through storytelling, visual representations, and qualitative data, the Atlas amplifies residents' voices, challenging misconceptions about their lives and struggles.

Furthermore, the Atlas fosters solidarity among Organised Occupation Movements by catalysing collaboration. By providing a platform for sharing knowledge, resources, and strategies, the Atlas facilitates the cross-pollination of ideas and practices among different movements.

This collaborative approach strengthens the collective resilience and efficacy of the broader social and spatial justice struggle. Ultimately, Atlas aims to inform policy changes that recognise and support the rights and needs of marginalised populations, thereby contributing to the transformation of urban landscapes. While acknowledging variations in objectives and powers among movements, this collaborative effort seeks not to overlook the differences but to converge at the intersection of shared objectives.

how to territorialise care?
design principles

Acknowledging the absence of engagement with the state is crucial, as they are a significant actor in this context. Our research was limited by not directly involving them to understand their role in the insurgency of the occupation. Additionally, it is essential to note that while we initiate the Atlas of 'Care-tographies', its development will be driven by the participants of the movements themselves.

This participatory approach empowers communities to take ownership of the platform, ultimately paving the way for regeneration initiatives led by those most directly affected. Drawing from our engagement in São Paulo and insights gained from the Urban Design Practice module, we present guidelines, methodologies, and strategies conducive to fostering this collaborative knowledge co-production.

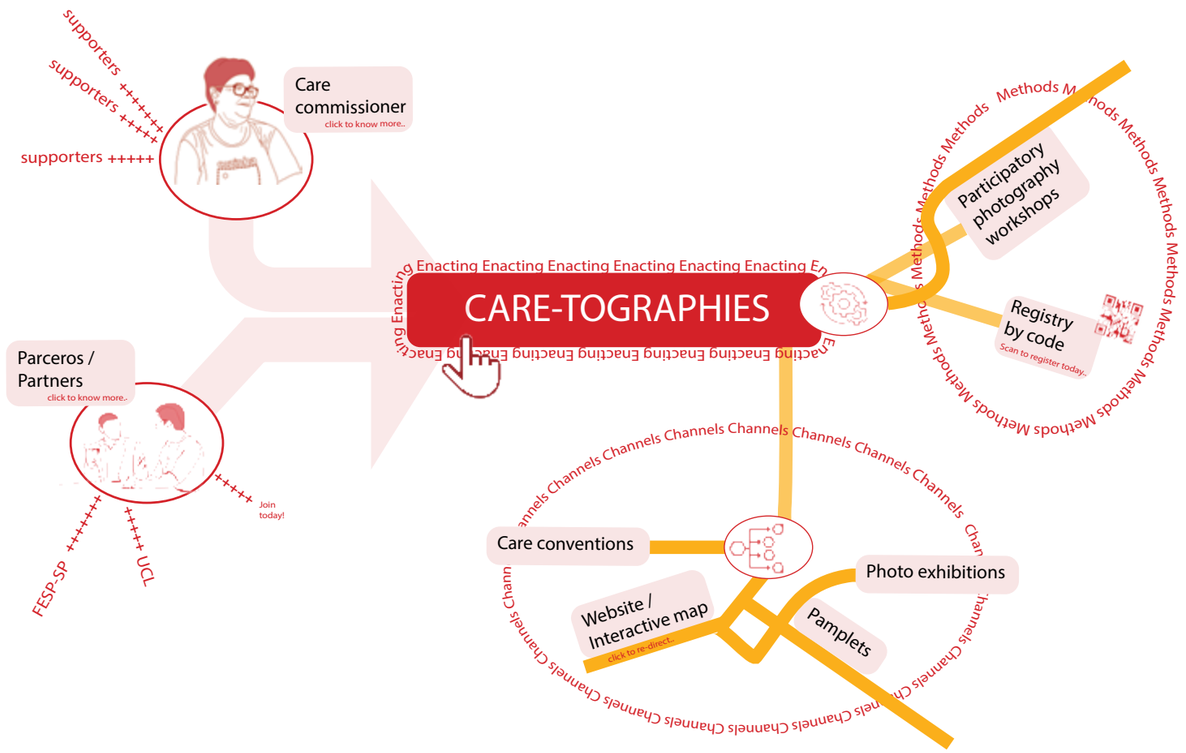
Scope Definition and Urban Scale

The scope ranges from the micro-scale of individual care practices within an occupation to the macro-scale of insurgent citizenship across the wider city of São Paulo. The Atlas will enable users to zoom in and out of these scales, offering detailed insights from the intimate, everyday practices of care within specific occupied sites to the broader patterns of insurgent regeneration throughout the city (see p.52-53). Given the significance of identity in understanding marginalisation and citizenship construction, advocate for an intersectional analysis throughout the Atlas production that recognises the multifaceted impact of race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability on care practices within these communities.

QR Code Integration for Engagement

The Atlas will incorporate QR codes to facilitate user engagement and contribution (see Figure 40). These QR codes will be strategically placed on murals, merchandise, and artwork throughout the city. Users can scan these codes to access the Atlas and add information about where they encountered the code, detailing how these symbols of care contribute to insurgent citizenship and urban regeneration. This integration method leverages everyday interactions with the urban

40. Politicisation process of care practices. Role of care commisioner and parceros to register and spread knowledge on care practices.
Source: Authors



41. Care commissioner diagram. Organisation of a care commission across movements
Source: Authors

environment to crowdsource data and stories, making the Atlas a living document of care practices.

Role of Care Commissioner

We propose the establishment of a Care Commissioner who will serve as a crucial intermediary between public policy and insurgent movements. The Care Commissioner will work to politicise care practices by ensuring they are recognised and supported within broader urban policy frameworks (see Figure 41). By engaging directly with care practices within these movements, the Commissioner will advocate for the systemic inclusion of care as a fundamental aspect of urban regeneration and citizenship, aligning with scholars like de Carli & Frediani (2016), who emphasise the political dimensions of care.

Participatory Photography Workshops

We propose participatory photography workshops to capture the cultural dimensions of care practices. These workshops will empower community members to document and share their lived experiences through photography. The resulting images will be exhibited on the Atlas, creating a rich visual narrative highlighting the everyday acts of care and resistance within insurgent communities (see Figure 43). This approach aligns with

42. Mapping care through culture process diagram
Source: Authors

participatory action research methodologies that value the co-production of knowledge and the visual representation of marginalised voices.

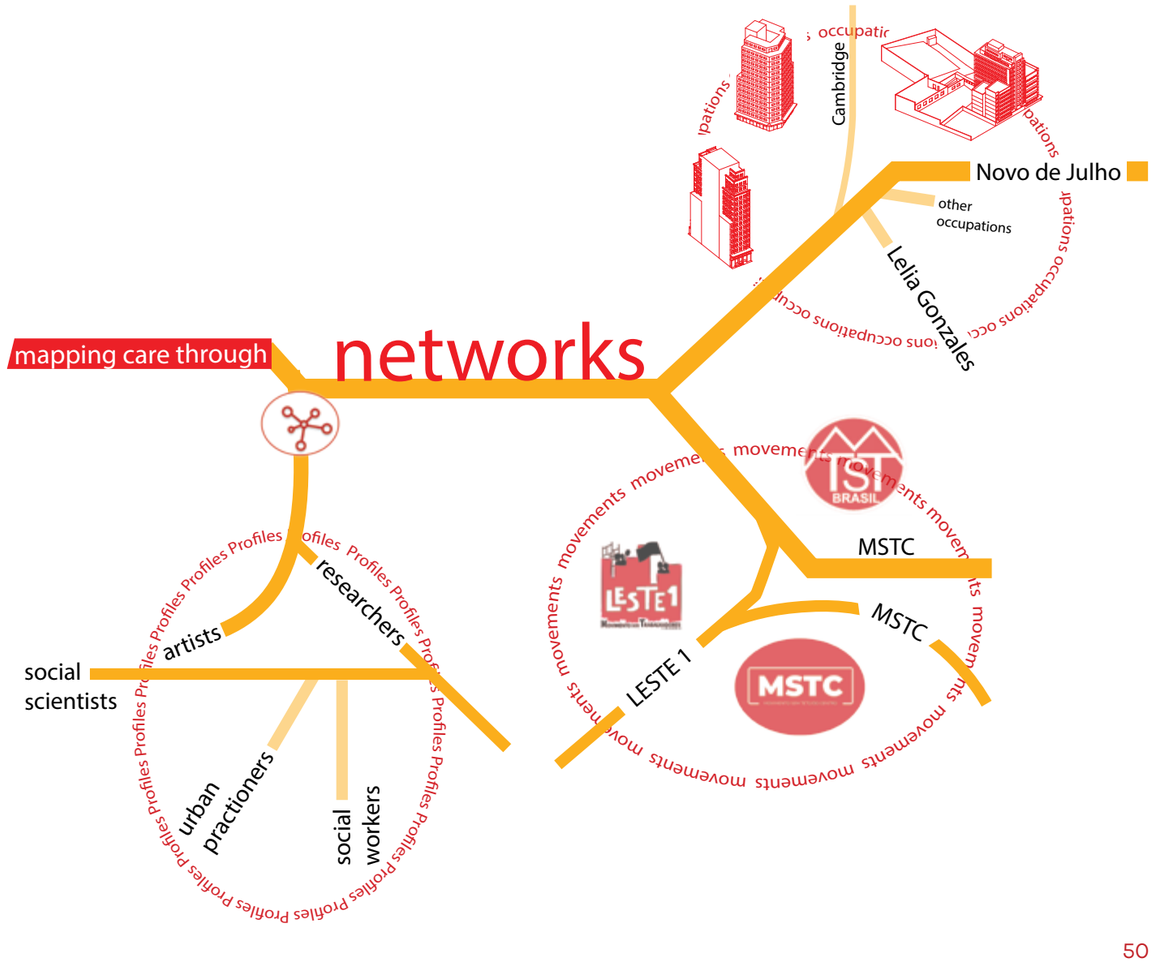
Profile System for Network Mapping

The Atlas will include a comprehensive profile system designed to register and connect users, allowing them to map their involvement and the impact of their care practices. When setting up their profiles, users will provide details such as their location, the specific care activities they are involved in, and the networks they belong to. This information will create a detailed map of care networks and areas of impact, highlighting the practices and the people who contribute to these efforts (see Figure 43).

The Atlas of 'Caretographies' will be an ongoing digital map that is interactively created by the community, continuously updated with new data, stories, and visuals that reflect the evolving landscape of care practices in São Paulo. To complement the digital platform, we propose the annual publication of a zine that captures a snapshot of the Atlas, providing a physical record of the year's contributions.

These printed copies are crucial in São Paulo, where physical documentation can reach those with limited digital access and serve as tangible artefacts of the community's efforts. The zine will ensure that the knowledge and experiences of insurgent care practices are preserved and disseminated widely, reinforcing the visibility and legitimacy of these crucial contributions to urban regeneration and citizenship.

43. Mapping care through networks process diagram
Source: Authors

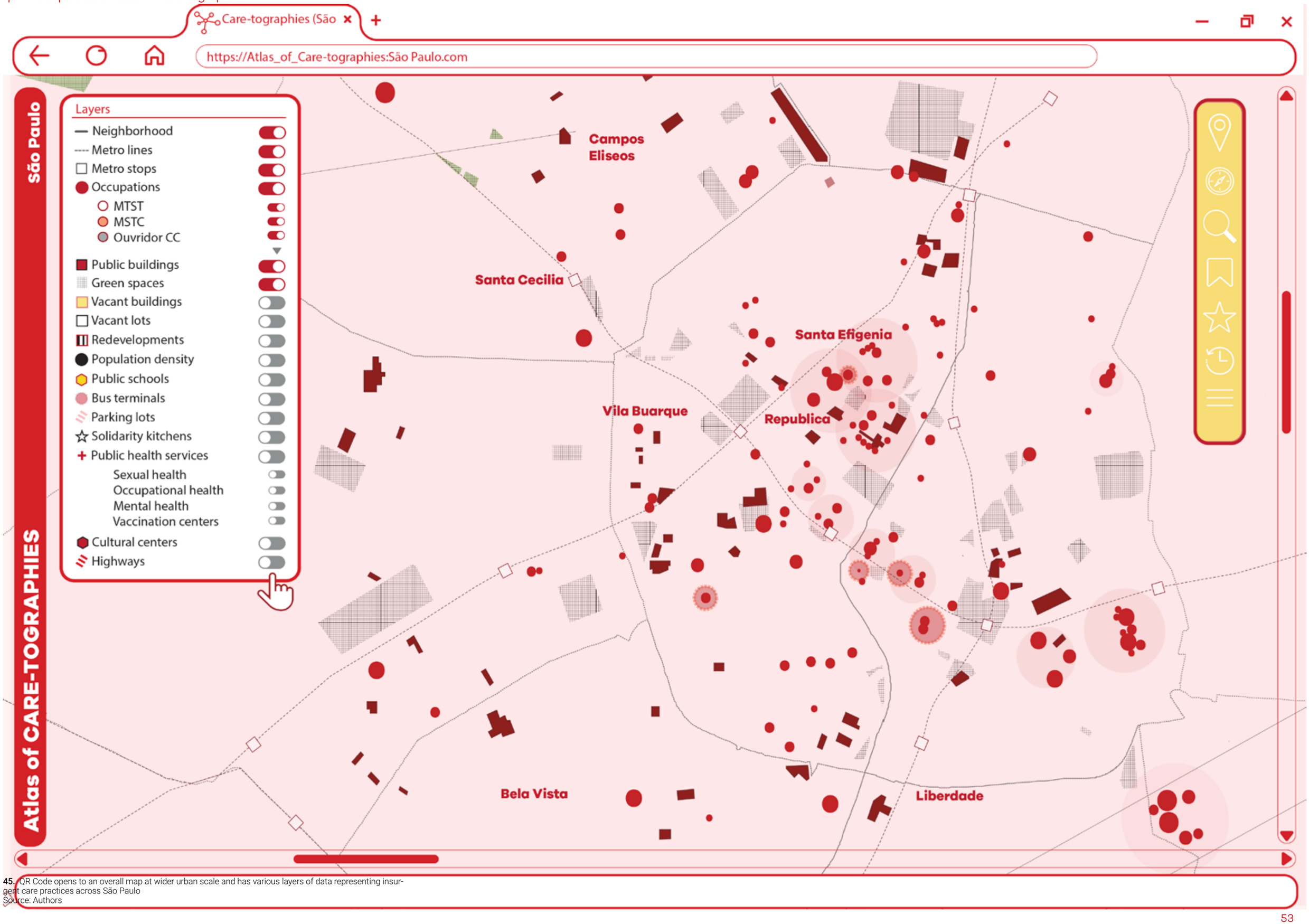


44. A user navigating the Atlas interface, exploring the interactive map and contributing to the collective knowledge of insurgent care practices in São Paulo
Source: Authors

the atlas: May 2024 edition

We offer a first glimpse into the territorialising of care practices and insurgent citizenship in São Paulo. As users navigate the digital space, they are presented with an engaging and visually rich interface that maps out the city's various occupied sites. Each site is represented by unique symbols, indicating different care practices such as communal kitchens, health services, and cultural activities. The Atlas allows users to seamlessly zoom in on specific locations, revealing detailed insights into the everyday actions and interactions that sustain these occupations. By focusing on the micro-scale, users can explore personal stories, photographs, and data that highlight the intimate nature of care practices within these communities.

At a broader level, the Atlas provides a macro-scale view, illustrating the interconnectedness of these localised efforts and their collective impact on urban regeneration. Users can zoom out to see a comprehensive map of São Paulo, displaying patterns of insurgent citizenship and the spread of care networks across the city. The platform encourages active engagement, inviting users to contribute their own experiences and observations through QR codes linked to the Atlas. These codes, strategically placed on murals, merchandise, and public artworks, allow for real-time updates and participation, making the Atlas a living, evolving document. This is our contribution and a first glance at how the Atlas can be used, navigated, and populated with information.



45. QR Code opens to an overall map at wider urban scale and has various layers of data representing insurgent care practices across São Paulo
Source: Authors

BUDD 23/24

Care-tographies (São

https://Atlas_of_Care-tographies:São Paulo.com

São Paulo

Atlas of CARE-TOGRAPHIES

EX-HOTEL CAMBRIDGE

MSTC
Av. Nove de Julho, 216

142 families aprox
Occupied in 2012
Formalised in 2016

The ex-occupation of Hotel Cambridge, initially led by the MSTC, stands as a significant milestone in the history of São Paulo's housing movements. Initially occupied in 2012, the former hotel became a crucial sanctuary for hundreds of families in need of housing. The occupation transformed arrangements. Through this initiative... Read More

key features: formalization, Minha Casa Minha Vida...

Contributor
SHARON PAUL
(Architect, Urban Practioner)
Qatar, May 2024

OCUPAÇÃO 9 DE JULHO

MSTC
R. Álvaro de Carvalho, 427

120 families aprox.
First occupied in 1997
Re-occupied in 2016

The 9th of July occupation, spearheaded by the MSTC (Movimento dos Sem-Teto do Centro), is a pivotal example of urban activism and community resilience in São Paulo. Originally occupied in 1997 and reoccupied on July 9, 2016, this building has become a vibrant hub for over 120 families, providing them with shelter and a sense of community. The occupation is not just a place to live but a center for various reclaiming urban spaces and advocating... Read More

key features: Coz… julho, marcenaria,

Contributor
MILAGROS VIDAL
(Architect, Urban Practioner)
Argentina, May 2024

OCUPAÇÃO SÃO FRANCISCO

MSTC
R. José Bonifácio, 565

25 families aprox.
Occupied in 2015

Ocupação São Francisco, led by the MSTC (Movimento Sem Teto do Centro) in São Paulo, provides housing for 25 families. Established in 2015, this occupation is part of a broader movement to address the housing crisis in the city. It exemplifies the collective effort to reclaim unused buildings and transform them into habitable spaces, ensuring that marginalized communities... Read More

key features: Common spaces, ethics comision,

Contributor
ZHENHUI CHENG
(Architect, Urban Practioner)
China, May 2024

OCUPAÇÃO OUVRIDOR

Associação Cultural Ouv-
R. do Ouvidor, 63

50 artivists aprox.
Since 2014

The artistic occupation Ouvidor 63, serves both as a residence and a space for artistic creation and cultural events, it provides accessible programming for the public. Awarded the culture point seal by the State in December 2018, it is the largest artistic occupation in Latin America. Negotiations with the State for building concession began in 2019, and the collective continues... Read More

key features: Dramatic Arts, Cultural Center, Street Art...

Contributor
CONG YE
(Architect, Urban Practioner)
China, May 2024

46. The initial zoom reveals a local scale, illustrating connections between occupations and pop-up care networks. Users can add their own entries to contribute to the map
Source: Authors

Care-tographies (São

https://Atlas_of_Care-tographies:São Paulo.com

São Paulo

Atlas of CARE-TOGRAPHIES

Horta Comunitária
Community Garden

The Horta in 9 de Julho Occupation is a vibrant hub of care and community resilience in São Paulo. Located centrally, this space nurtures not just plants but social bonds and well-being. Through sustainable agriculture, communal engagement, and knowledge-sharing, the Horta cultivates vegetables for popular lunches as well as solidarity, empowerment, and belonging.

Led by Dona Irene and her team, they transformed debris into a thriving garden, even using the debris to construct the concrete floor. Recently, the municipal government recognized the Horta as a model of urban gardening and sustainability, assigning an assistant to support Irene in overseeing the project.

Compostagem
Composting

At 9 de Julho Occupation, a big composting system thrives under the diligent care of community members like Ivanildo. He is in charge of collecting the organic waste from the community kitchen and compost it with straw, dry leaves and fodder. After 120 days, the compost produced is capable of fertilizing the entire "horta" without the need for additional fertilizers from elsewhere, achieving self-sufficiency in a circular manner.

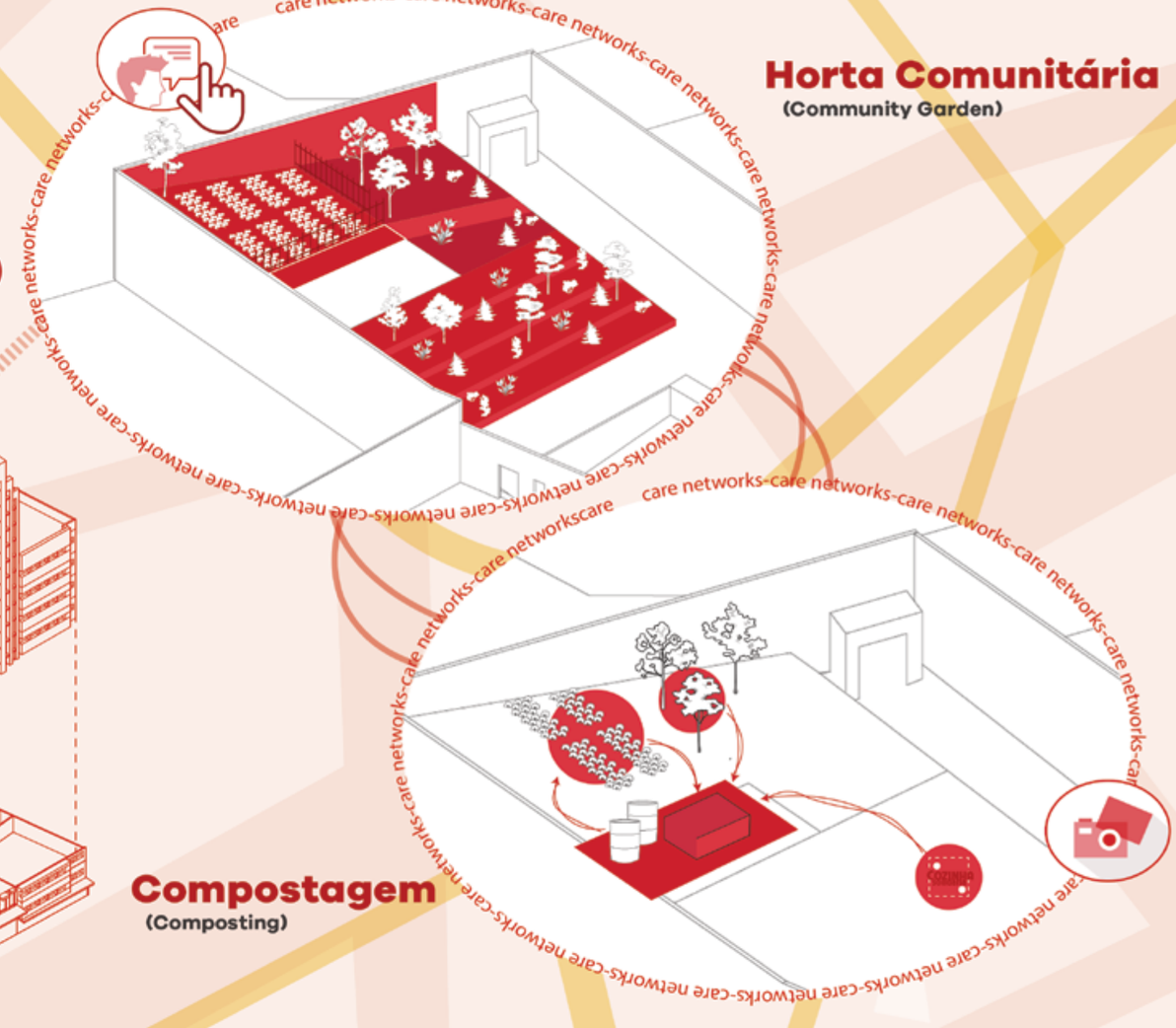
See Also...

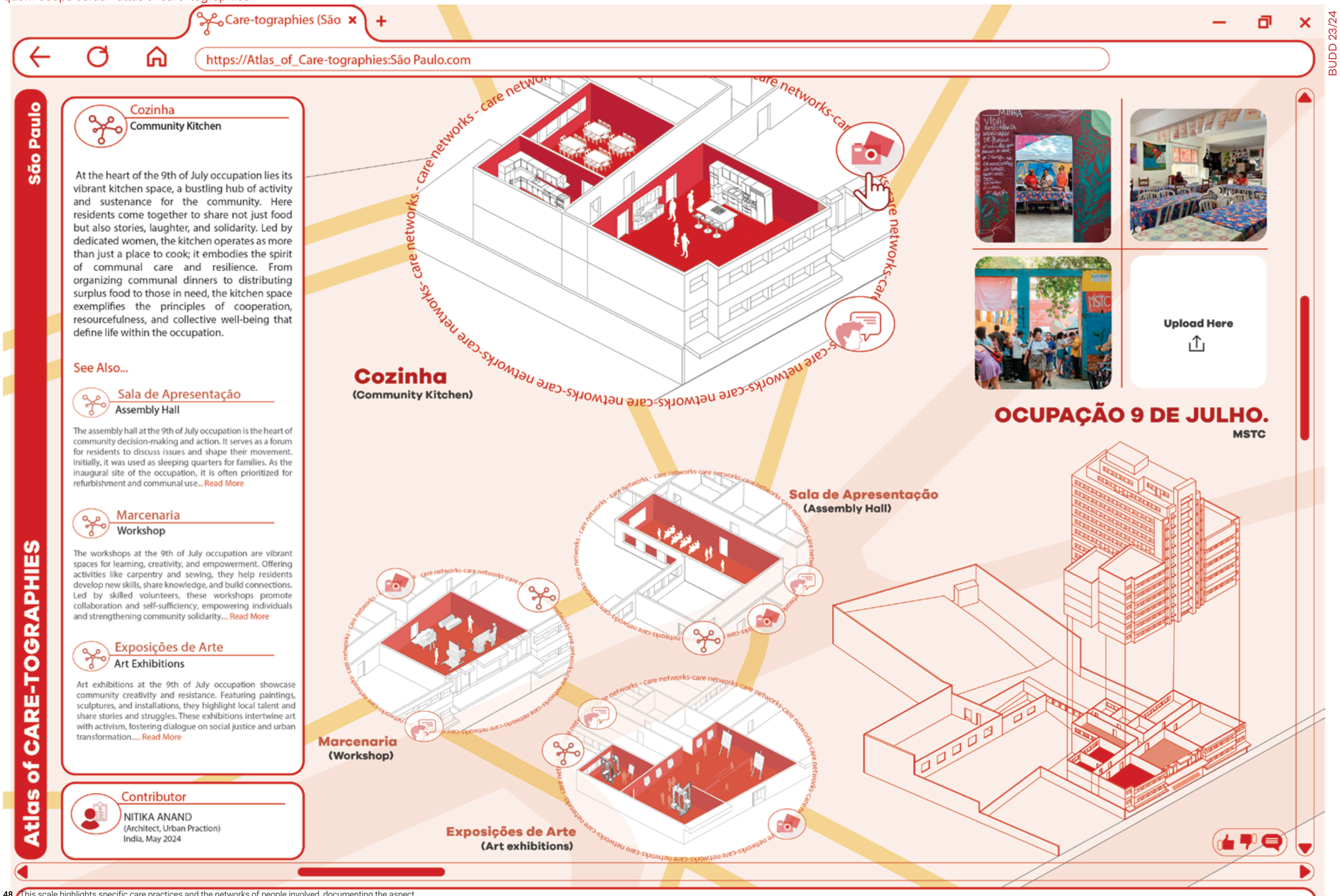
Almoço de Domingo
Sunday Lunch

The "Cozinha Solidária" at the 9th of July Occupation is a communal kitchen initiative that distributes meals to those in need and hosts fundraising lunches for residents and visitors. Run by dedicated volunteers, it fosters solidarity and community by providing nutritious, culturally diverse meals. These lunches create social interaction and support, embodying mutual aid and collective care, while also helping to change perceptions about the occupation.... Read More

Contributor

JOSE CEPERO SARAVIA
(Researcher, Urban Design Practioner)
Peru, April 2024


Horta Comunitária
(Community Garden)
Compostagem
(Composting)
(Sunday Lunch venue)
Almoço de Domingo
care networks-care networks-care networks-



48. This scale highlights specific care practices and the networks of people involved, documenting the aspect of urban regeneration
Source: Authors

BUDD 23/24

Care-tographies (São

https://Atlas_of_Care-tographies:São Paulo.com

São Paulo

Atlas of CARE-TOGRAPHIES

Centro Cultural
Cultural Center

Situated on a hilltop, the residents of Lelia Gonzalez have breathed new life into an abandoned structure, converting it into a vibrant cultural center for the community and MTST movement affiliates. This revitalized space now serves as a dynamic hub where a wide array of cultural activities and social events take place. From organizing artistic workshops and cultural performances to hosting social gatherings like birthdays and communal lunches, the center plays a crucial role in bringing the community together, fostering a strong sense of unity and belonging among its members.

See Also...

Cozinha
Kitchen

The communal kitchen at the Lelia Gonzalez occupation is a bustling hub of activity and community spirit. Designed to serve the residents and visitors, it is a place where meals are prepared and shared with warmth and camaraderie. Volunteers and residents work together to cook meals, often using donated ingredients, to ensure everyone has access to nutritious food. This communal space... Read More

Pavilhão de assembleia
Outdoor Assembly Hall

The outdoor assembly space at the Lelia Gonzalez occupation is a big gathering spot for both the occupants and movement members. Situated in an open area surrounded by different country flags, this space is where residents come together to hold political acts, community meetings, and various social events. Equipped a stage, it serves as a platform for political... Read More

Contributor
MILAGROS VIDAL
(Architect, Urban Practioner)
Argentina, May 2024

Centro cultural
(Cultural center)

Upload Here

OCUPAÇÃO LELIA GONZALEZ.
MTST

Cozinha
(Kitchen)

Pavilhão de assembleia ao ar livre
Outdoors Assembly Hall

49. This scale is spatial; it details the dwelling practices, the internal governance, the maintenance form-
Source: Authors

50. Donha Irene caring for the garden
Source: Authors

conclusions & reflections

The Overseas Practice Engagement has given us a profound learning experience on the ambiguity and complexity inherent to the engagement process. Despite meticulous planning, we saw that adaptability and fluidity are requisite for urban practitioners conducting design research and engagement. Design Research transcends the confines of static, deterministic processes, evolving as a collaborative, co-creative process.

In this sense, our proposal of the Atlas of 'Care-tographies' signifies our acknowledgement of the transitory nature inherent to design research and embodies collaborative, inclusive methodologies. As urban practitioners, our function is to cultivate spaces for knowledge exchange and collective mobilisation, thereby fostering an environment conducive to the collective production of space.

The Atlas serves as a foundational instrument for the territorialisation of care, recording and demonstrating spatial configurations through the lens of care practices and opening up for greater visibility to these practices within mainstream discourse.

Our design research revealed that urban design and insurgent citizenship are not merely parallel phenomena but deeply intertwined, co-constitutive practices. We saw that care emerged as a potent power between the two practices, transcending its traditional role as a private, individualised act to become a collective and politically charged practice leading to citizenship reimagination.

Care moves through many arrangements, from the physical spaces of dwelling to the intangible spaces of cultural expression, education, and healthcare. This reconceptualisation of care challenges conventional notions of urban governance, which often prioritise efficiency and economic growth over the well-being and agency of marginalised communities.

Framing insurgent citizenship with care also represents a departure from conventional state-centric modes of public service delivery, which tend to fragment and commodify aspects of collective life. In contrast, the ethos of care recognises the inherent interconnectedness of individuals and communities, acknowledging the complex web of relationships and dependencies that make urban life.

Therefore, we recognise care as a static concept and an active, ongoing performance that shapes and reshapes the city. By documenting these performative acts of care, we invite a reevaluation of urban norms and hierarchies, fostering spaces of resistance and empowerment for those who have long been sidelined in the urban development process.

Looking to the future, the Atlas of 'Care-tographies' is an invaluable repository of knowledge and inspiration to catalyse transformative change in urban spaces and cities worldwide. As a comprehensive compendium of diverse care practices, it offers many insights and examples for policymakers, urban planners, designers, and community organisers seeking to reimagine and reshape their built environments.

The performative is not the performance of a task but the reiteration of norms. The importance of the performative dimension of care within the Atlas is that it serves as a reiteration of the normative political membership of marginalised communities who have mobilised to assert their agency and visibility within the city. These communities, often sidelined and excluded from traditional avenues of civic participation, are utilising the performative act of care to reclaim their voices and identities and reimagine what it means to be citizens in São Paulo.

Moreover, the open-access format and adaptable framework of the Atlas make it accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, empowering communities to leverage their local knowledge and resources in pursuit of meaningful change. Whether as a tool for advocacy, planning, or education, the Atlas demonstrates the strength of collective efforts and the revolutionary impact of care-centered approaches to urban development. In the hands of passionate changemakers, it can spark a global movement towards more compassionate and caring cities, where the performativity of care practices could lead to a reimagined embodiment of citizenship.

51. Insurgent citizens of MSTC
Source: MST
Photo: Edouard Fraipont

52. Caring for the building and provision of infrastructure at 9 de Julho
Source: Focaal Blog

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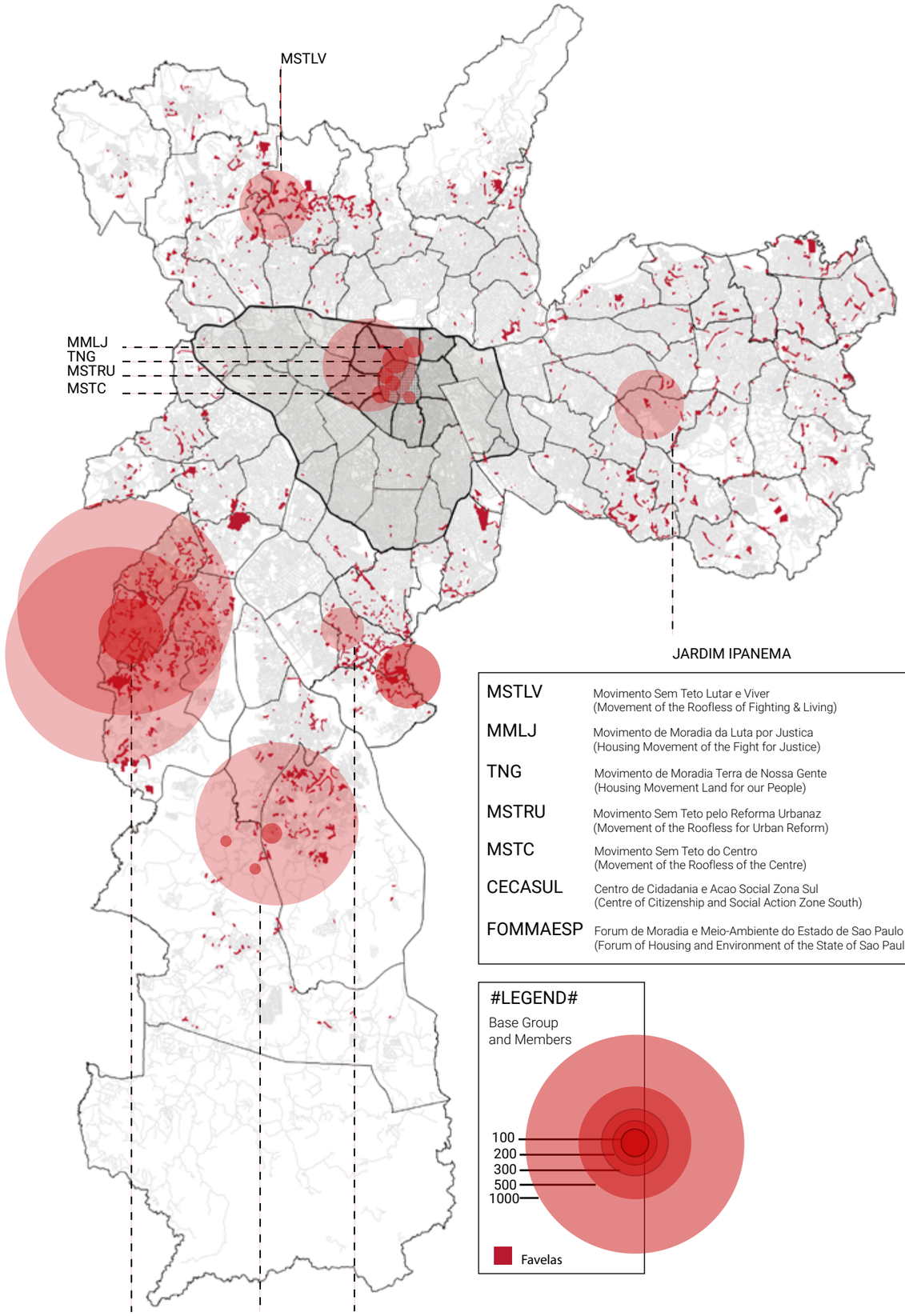
53. People at the Sunday lunch who are visiting to show solidarity and support MSTC activities
Source: Focaal Blog

annexes

54. Movement supporters sharing during Sunday Lunch at Ocupação 9 de Julho
Source: Focaal Blog

mapping insurgent regeneration

social movements

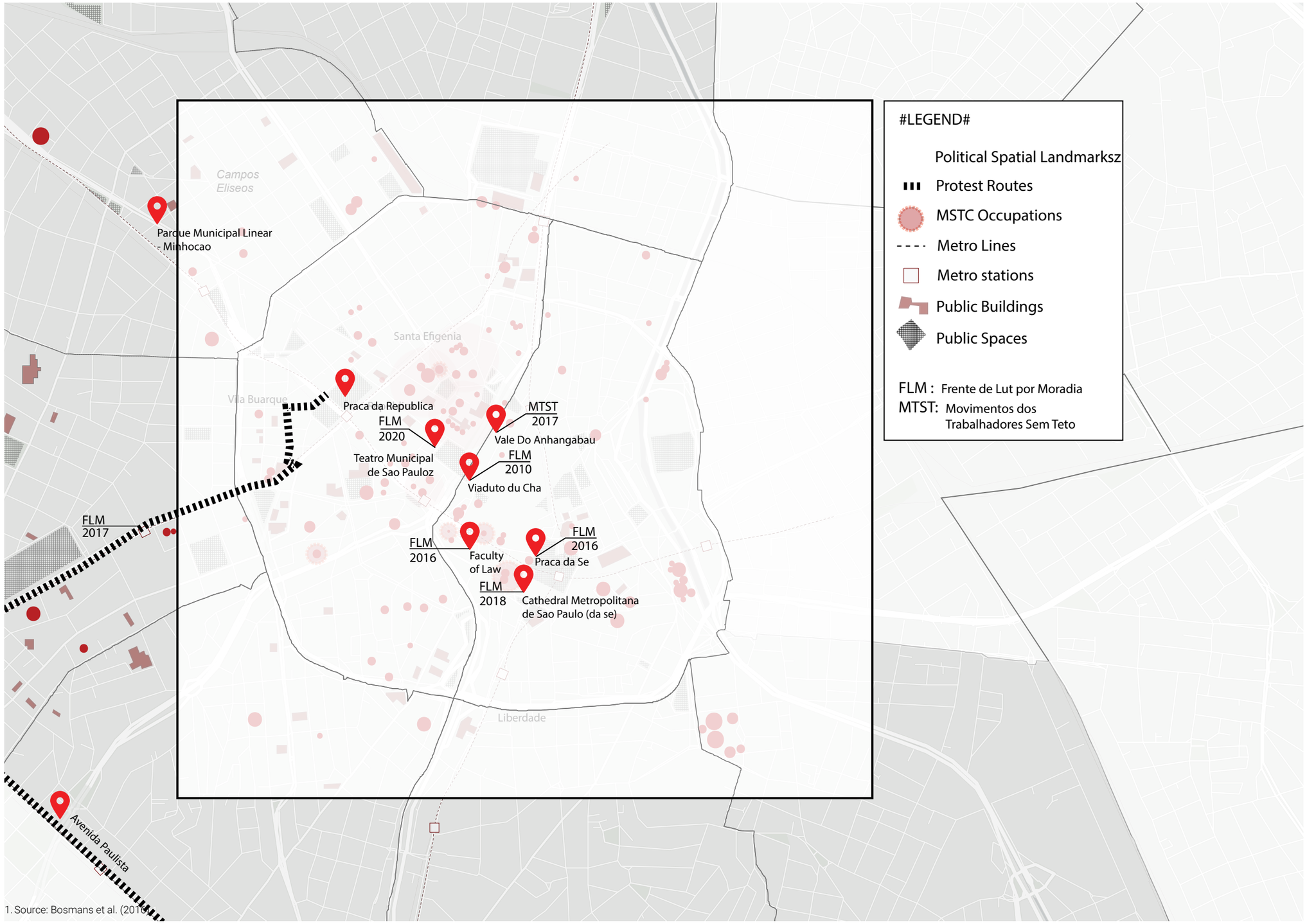


MSTLV	Movimento Sem Teto Lutar e Viver (Movement of the Roofless of Fighting & Living)
MMLJ	Movimento de Moradia da Luta por Justica (Housing Movement of the Fight for Justice)
TNG	Movimento de Moradia Terra de Nossa Gente (Housing Movement Land for our People)
MSTRU	Movimento Sem Teto pelo Reforma Urbanaz (Movement of the Roofless for Urban Reform)
MSTC	Movimento Sem Teto do Centro (Movement of the Roofless of the Centre)
CECASUL	Centro de Cidadania e Acao Social Zona Sul (Centre of Citizenship and Social Action Zone South)
FOMMAESP	Forum de Moradia e Meio-Ambiente do Estado de Sao Paulo (Forum of Housing and Environment of the State of Sao Paulo)

1. Source: Bosmans et al. (2016)

mapping insurgent regeneration

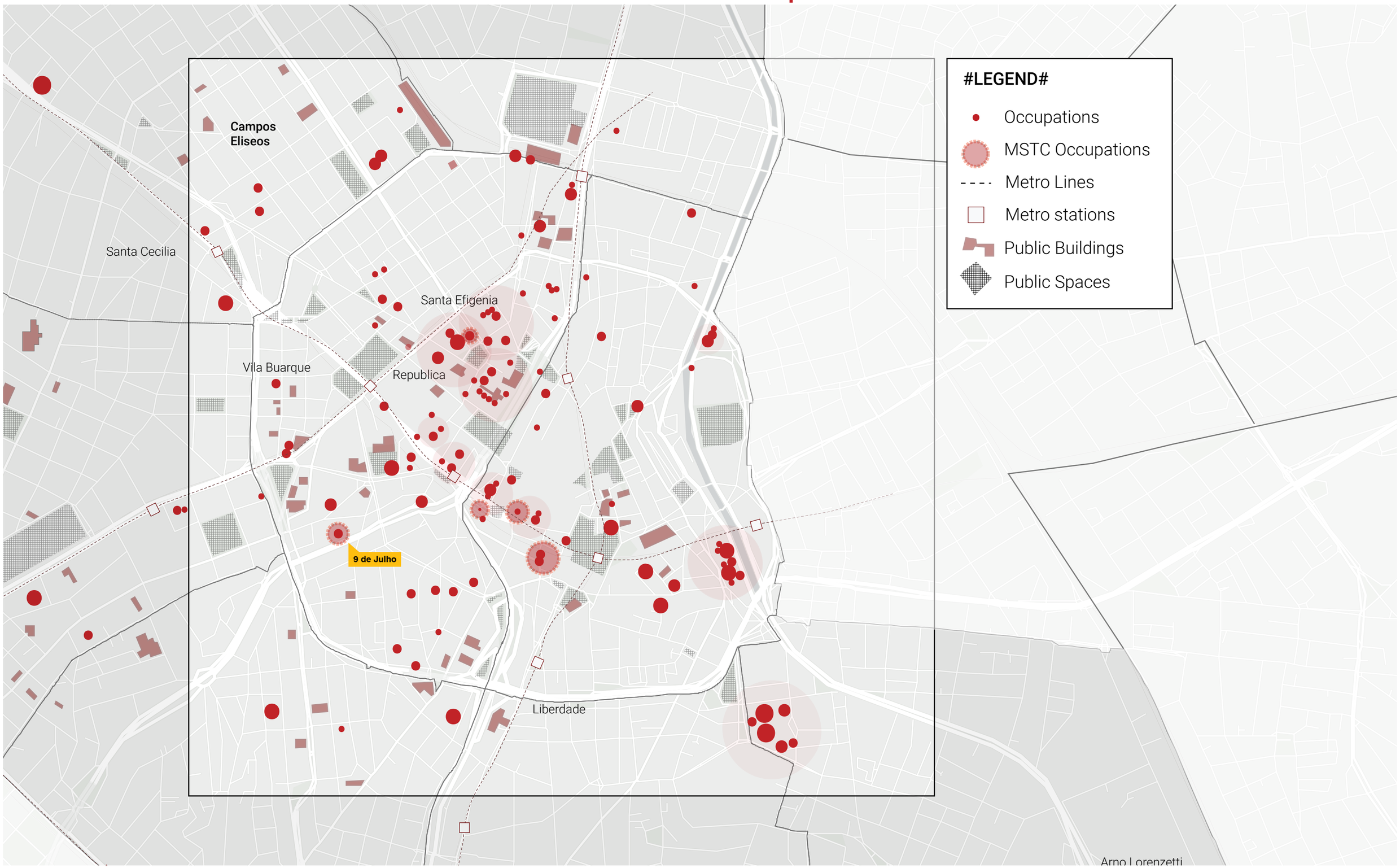
protests



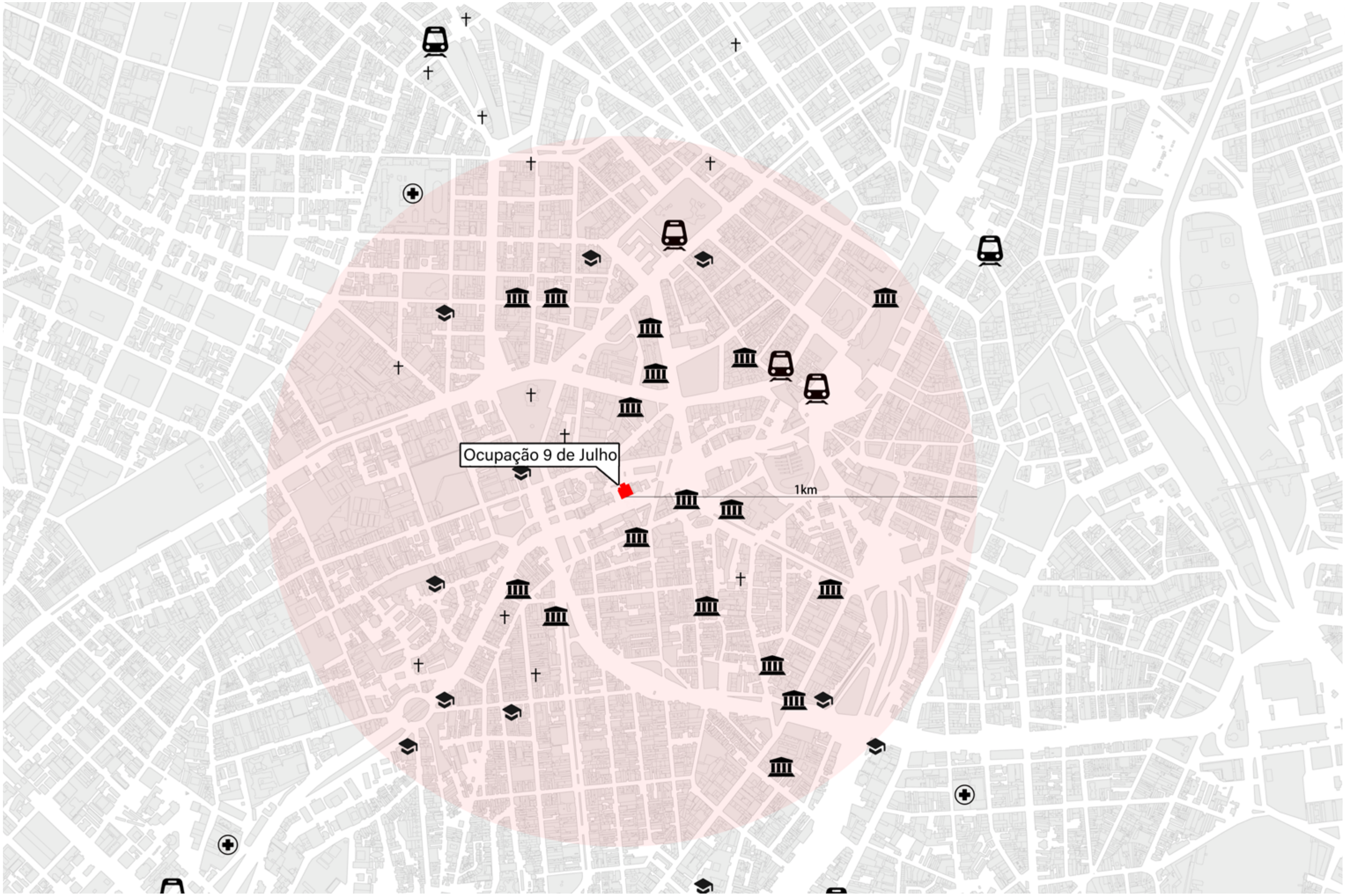
1. Source: Bosmans et al. (2018)

mapping insurgent regeneration

occupations



9 de Julho



9 de Julho

Carmem Silva and MTSC are extraordinary. Pure lesson of life and citizenship.

What an amazing place. Visiting it gives me hope for better days for our people, for our city!

Super democratic space for building MSTC knowledge. With community garden and kitchen, second-hand library, thrift store, as well as stalls selling books, shirts, caps, sweets, snacks and drinks. Always with cultural events.

Great place to support an important cause and also enjoy excellent cuisine and participate in parties

FROM GARDEN TO TABLE, VEGETABLES FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN AND LOCAL PRODUCERS ARE PREPARED IN THE KITCHEN AND USED FOR THE LUNCHES AND OTHER EVENTS.

Sensational! A very rewarding experience. Get to know and support the MSTC (Movimento Sem Teto do Centro). Extremely well organized group, lunch is served on weekends, including a

I never imagined being here in this incredible place, which supports cultural, human and political resistance. I always passed by and didn't notice it, it's a very discreet place, but I had the opportunity to do work that used its space. A space that delights at every step. I leave my respect and gratitude to the organizers for providing us with their beloved

To occupy is to resist. Sao Paulo is the capital of large, idle buildings in the process of decay. The occupation is a symbol and home of a movement seeking housing and dignity. The cuisine is sensational, every Sunday there is a dish that is more incredible